

# BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



June - July 2000

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

## "CHAINSAW" A SELF-STARTER



*Motif for Expo t-shirts available at  
From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture  
for \$16.95*

The From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo is really generating some woodchips and other interesting spinoffs. Elaine Green, Expo Coordinator, reports that the High School site is as full as it can possibly be with some "wood-be" exhibitors having had to be reluctantly refused space this year. It is great to see such a level of interest in our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Woodworking Expo.

Thanks again to our major sponsor, the Department of Natural Resources and our new sponsor, the Australian Greenhouse Office.

Of course our thanks also go out in advance to the many many Barung members who are volunteering their time to make our main annual fundraiser a success.

Once again community support has been inspiring with the generosity of local people enabling us to offer great raffle and other prizes.

Master craftsman exhibitor Jim Svensson's magnificent red cedar, copper and leather pot is our major Expo raffle prize. Stephen and Fiona Hunter have donated second prize - two nights at Witta Gums. Dinner for two at The Terrace Seafood Restaurant is third and Norman Austin of Coockatoo Hill has given us a beautiful red cedar bowl for fourth.

Our most popular indoor and outdoor exhibitors will be dinner guests at King Ludwigs and Graatz Mexican respectively, and Howard Jupp has again donated an exquisite piece for our lucky door prize. Just fill out the questionnaire in the program to be in the draw for this beautiful souvenir of the Expo.

The chainsaw element is truly represented with a chainsaw mill and two chainsaw sculptors. Keith Gall's masterpiece "Silky" (a 2 tonne Silky oak stump carved with Australian animals) will be on show and Keith will also be working on a carving to be auctioned at 3pm on the final day of the Expo, proceeds to benefit Barung. Cies Jones will also be sculpting with chainsaw and hand tools, and bringing along some of his beautiful pieces for display in the outdoor arena.

Portable mills will be on site, slabbing everything from White oak to camphor laurel for sale to the public. What better to do with a camphor laurel than to mill it up to sit on or use as a coffee table! Barung members, Peter and Shirley Marsh, are again bringing the wonderful old steam driven engine and mill from Caboolture Historical Village.

Before you venture inside, warm up with a friend and enter the Crosseut Saw races. There are 3 categories: Jack and Jill; Pups (under 50's); and of course, Legends. Raise a sweat and pit your best against last year's winners who have been invited to defend their titles! You can enter as many free heats as you wish - maybe you'll even take home a trophy! Clive Kunst from the Gympie Woodworks Museum, will be doing old time woodcraft demos in the Crosseut saw venue in-between races. You might like to

*continued on page 2*

### TIMBER TALK 2000

#### SATURDAY JUNE 10

- 10 - 11am "INTRODUCTION TO FARM FORESTRY"  
- Ashley Sewell & Laurie Capill
- 11 - 12 noon "PROPERTY PLANNING FOR FARM FORESTRY" - Terry Reid
- 1 - 2pm "SEED COLLECTION & PROPAGATION OF RAINFOREST AND NATIVE HARDWOOD SPECIES" - Marc Russell
- 2 - 3pm "GREENHOUSE AND CARBON CREDITS - WHAT'S IN IT FOR LANDHOLDERS FOR REVEGETATION & FARM FORESTRY"  
- Rebecca Ford
- 3 - 4pm "FARM FORESTRY ON-LINE"  
- Stephen Alexander

#### SUNDAY JUNE 11

- 10am - 12 noon "\$ VALUES AND MARKETING OF NATIVE TIMBERS IN RELATION TO FURNITURE MAKING & MOBILE MILLING REQUIREMENTS"  
- Brian Spillane with panel of furniture makers & millers
- 12 noon - 1pm "FARM FORESTRY - LOCAL RESPONSES TO GLOBAL ISSUES"  
- Laurie Capill
- 2.30 - 3.30pm "GREENHOUSE AND CARBON CREDITS - WHAT'S IN IT FOR LANDHOLDERS FOR REVEGETATION & FARM FORESTRY"  
- Rebecca Ford

#### MONDAY JUNE 12

- 10 - 11am "GREENHOUSE AND CARBON CREDITS - WHAT'S IN IT FOR LANDHOLDERS FOR REVEGETATION & FARM FORESTRY"  
- Rebecca Ford
- 11 - 12 noon "THE SEQ FOREST AGREEMENT - OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT" - Dr. Aila Keto
- 1 - 2pm "VEGETATION MANAGEMENT"  
- Ken Murray
- 2 - 3pm "NATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP" - Ernie Rider

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Phillip Trendell	Peter & Kris Fitzgerald
P. & E. Calway	Anni Philp
A. Franks	Shona Elliott
Evan Parry	Les & Stef Dunn
Malcolm Keane & Bev Perel	R.K. Burns
Angus & Sally Johns	Kerry May
S. & K. Alexander	Ailsa Spiro
M. Owens	Jeff Jensen
Maleny Realty	Geoff & Robyn Greenlees
Ben, Andrea & Bodhi Risby-Jones	

THANKYOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

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## GST & Barung Membership Fees

As you are aware, GST comes into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2000. This will mean that any membership renewals from that date will cost \$16.50 (\$15.00 membership plus \$1.50 GST).

However Barung will also be required to pay proportional GST on memberships paid before July 1<sup>st</sup> if the period covered by the membership extends beyond that date (eg. membership which was due for renewal in January 2000 will be liable for GST for 6 months). To avoid Barung being out of pocket by several hundred dollars we are asking that all members voluntarily pay us an additional dollar. Please pay this the next time you are in Maleny.

Plants paid for but not collected by 1st July will attract GST e.g. prepaid orders, orders on hold, and plants for landholders participating in Land for Wildlife and Corridors of Green programs.

If you fall within one of these categories, we recommend that you collect your plants prior to this date.

## "CHAINSAW" A SELF-STARTER

(cont'd from p1)

slip into the Crosscut Bar Tent for a beer and a snack hot off the BBQ while you watch the competition.

In the new Activity Centre, furniture from "bush" styles to traditional to the most refined modern designs will be represented - all lovingly created by Sunshine Coast artists. Take time to watch them at work - whittling, carving and turning - and have a chat about the stories behind the pieces. The dulcet tones of the dulcimer will abound from popular exhibitors Doug and Dale Eaton's Stanley River Music site, and "As You Like It" will be playing in the mezzanine on Sunday. Upstairs you can quiz the experts in the Timber Talk venue and farm forestry displays. Talks are centred round the themes of Farm Forestry Basics, Industry Requirements and Native Forests on Saturday, Sunday and Monday respectively.

Guest speaker, Rebecca Ford from the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) in Canberra, will be presenting a session each day entitled "Greenhouse and carbon credits - what's in it for landholder or revegetation and farm forestry?" Rebecca works for the AGO with a new "National Sinks Team" focussing on the development of greenhouse sinks across Australia, with a particular focus on carbon accounting for forestry and revegetation projects. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about a topic which will become increasingly important as Australia struggles to meet its greenhouse targets. Another feature will be the Farm Forestry Bus Tour, which will depart the Expo site at 10.30am on Saturday to visit farm forestry sites on the Range, returning around 2.30pm. Please book with Mark Warnick on 5441 5557 to ensure a seat.

This year the Expo will again host 'The Forest Gallery' featuring unique pieces of local art and craft, and 'The Historical Display'. Take a walk through time and visit the timber-cutting history of the Range. Coffee and snacks will be flowing from the kitchen in the main hall and the School tuckshop will be offering full hot meals.

We look forward to sharing the Expo with you at the Maleny State High School in Bunya St on Saturday 9, Sunday 10 and Monday 11 June. Bring your friends and help Barung raise funds for landcare education and revegetation!



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Lin Fairlie*

Aided by Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funding, Barung has planted thousands of local native trees and raised community awareness of catchment issues in our area of SE Queensland over the past three years. We hope that this is not about to change.

In this, my first 'presidential' contribution to the newsletter, I am sorry to have to tell you that NHT funding has been greatly reduced. Despite submitting a very good application, it is unlikely that Barung will gain NHT funding for the period 2001-2002. We are, therefore, at a crossroads in our planning and are actively seeking funding from a variety of new sources for a number of sections of our operations.

It is hard to believe that NHT criteria this year had no emphasis at all on education (for which we have received funding in the past). Our NHT education funding runs out in September.

If any of our other funding applications is unsuccessful we will have to rely more heavily on volunteers to fill the gaps from an organizational point of view. Even two hours per fortnight of volunteer help from members will assist us greatly.

A more immediate request is for volunteers for Barung's From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo to be held from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June at the new Maleny High School Activities Centre. As well as help on these days, assistance in setting up on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> is required. Please contact the Barung office if you can offer a couple of hours on any of those days. This is our major fundraising event of the year, and the more funds generated, the more activities Barung can organize and the more help we can provide to landholders.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Barung Management Committee has a vacancy. You don't need any particular expertise - just a belief and interest in local landcare.

And although you will read this in June, I would also like you, as Barung members, to think about whether you would be interested in nominating for the Committee before the AGM in September.

If you would like to discuss becoming a Management Committee member, either immediately or after the AGM, please contact me on 5435 8038 or leave a message at the Barung office (5494 3151).

As part of a thinking community, Barung members could also consider having input into community consultations about the future of the area as dairyfarmers struggle with deregulation. Landcare issues could arise if many minimum-sized subdivisions occur. We should take this opportunity to work together as a community.

We hope you attend the Expo and enjoy the beautiful work exhibited. Don't forget to invite your friends to share it with us all.

## INTERNATIONAL LANDCARE 2000 CONFERENCE ROUND-UP



More than 1200 delegates from across Australia and overseas, a majority from community landcare, attended the inaugural International Landcare 2000 Conference in February.

Conference delegates heard from leading Landcare, environmental, corporate, industry and government participants who discussed the future of the Landcare movement and identified ways to maintain its momentum.

Key issues identified at the Conference included:

- \* sharing the responsibility through planning management at the catchment and regional levels;
- \* a strong call to government for support and the provision of links to policy makers;
- \* networking local, regional and international community groups to enhance communication within the landcare movement;
- \* the role of facilitators and technical support as crucial to the survival of Landcare as a movement.

The Conference outcomes will be presented in a report to the United Nations later this year and will highlight Australia's recommendations for sustainable land and water management and practice.

As a result of the conference, the following were announced:

1. a forum that will allow for indigenous communities to showcase their land management practices and skills to the wider landcare community;
2. the establishment of a task force to harness the Conference outcomes and enhance vital partnerships for the next decade of Landcare, launched by the Hon Sherryl Garbutt, Victorian Minister for Environment and Conservation at the Conference.

Commenting on the Conference, Mr John Claringbould, Chairman of Landcare Australia, said "Landcare in Australia is at an important threshold. The future of landcare will be secure if we continue to build mature partnerships with government and industry, as well as to harness the continued enthusiasm of community landcare groups.

"We must continue to acknowledge the importance of indigenous land practices, given their extraordinary understanding and connection with the land, and recognise that we are all part of the same community and consequently need to work together to achieve sustainable practices."

While celebrating the legacy of 10 successful years of Landcare in Australia, the Conference also highlighted that participants were concerned about the permanency of funding for Landcare and long-term commitment from governments.

In addition delegates stressed that timely transfer of information from research and development corporations directly to Landcare community groups is crucial to ensure that new technologies and developments could be effectively applied.

The Conference also built important linkages between Australian and international landcare groups to strengthen the global resource pool of knowledge and experience.

For more information:

Mr John Claringbould  
Chairman  
Landcare Australia  
0419319627

Mr Peter Sutherland  
Executive Director  
Catchment & Water Division  
Natural Resources & Environment  
03 9637 8000 or 0419 314 295



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## NURSERY NOTES

Spencer Shaw

Well cross fingers the long wet is over. Regular rain is good, but when you get mushrooms on your mushrooms - ! No doubt all the Mycologists (fungi fanciers) out there are in their element but when even the wild tobacco starts to curl up its toes you know it has been wet.

The wet weather has almost seen the nursery sink back into the primordial swamp that once made up our part of town, but with a few new drains and a bit more gravel we should be able to rise above it all!

One of the most common questions I have been asked over the last few months is "What can I grow in this really wet spot where everything I usually plant dies?" Well, that's a tricky one. If the area is so wet that the soil has begun to smell, it is likely that the soil has lost the ability to carry oxygen and has become anaerobic. These areas are always going to be problems in the short term, but there is hope. There are many local plants that can cope with very damp situations, many occurring naturally along watercourses or in boggy areas. However planting tubestock grown in well-drained conditions into heavy anaerobic soil can shock the plant to the extent that it will die.

Planting trees will help to drain an area of excess moisture. To start with, you might only plant around the edges of your bog, where the soil still has oxygen available. Planting your boggy area during a dry spell with trees or plants that can tolerate wet conditions may give them the time needed to adapt to the area. Another suggestion may be to create mounds in the wet area to help establish your plants. Also consider planting wet areas with a range of sedges and other wetland plants to start the ecological ball rolling.

### Wet feet favourites:

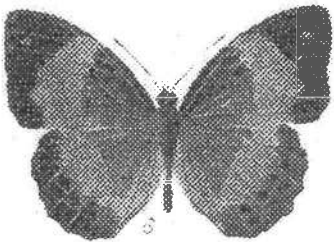
*Callistemon salignus* - White bottlebrush; *Callistemon viminalis* - Red bottlebrush; *Casuarina cunninghamiana* - River sheoak; *Waterhousea floribunda* - Watergum; *Syzygium spp* - Lillypillys; *Alocasia brisbanensis* - Cunjevoi; *Acmena smithii* - Lillypilly; *Cyathea cooperi* - Treefern; Palm spp; Fern spp; Sedge spp.

**Thankyou** to Helen Hazell of Woombye for your generous donation of one hundred bunya trees in 8" (200mm) pots.

## Butterflies of the Range

from Bob Miller

### THE AUSTRALIAN RUSTIC (*Cupha prosopis prosopis*)



I was fortunate enough to observe one of the most amazing sights I have seen since studying butterflies in February this year.

On visiting one of the re-vegetation sites I have been involved in to assess the weed growth, I noticed movement around one of the three Flintwood (*Scolopia braunii*) saplings which we had introduced into the park. It was an Australian Rustic!

Never having seen the Australian Rustic in this park before, we again proved that by planting the right plants in the right places, the wildlife associated with those plants, in this case butterflies, will soon follow.

The most amazing thing was not that this butterfly appeared in the park, but the way in which the female deposited her eggs. I crept as close as I could without disturbing the butterfly, so I could see that she actually oviposited (laid an egg).

Every time she put her abdomen under a leaf - the normal place butterflies deposit eggs - I moved in for a closer look, but no eggs. I must have watched her for ten minutes as she walked from one side of the plant to the other, touching her abdomen on the leaves and branches as she went. She would walk along the branch upside-down, then back up the right way again, dragging her abdomen at differing intervals.

When she flew to the other side of the plant, I took the opportunity to search where she had been very thoroughly, but to no avail. I could not find any eggs.

I moved slowly around the tree to once again observe her strange movements. This time I wasn't going to take my eyes off her!

Then it happened, a single, small, greenish coloured egg was glistening in the sunshine

on the underside of a leaf.

I took note of where the egg was and continued to observe as she danced around the plant. Then I saw it again - another egg - an exact replica of the first, but not on the underside of a leaf, this time it was in a spider's web!

I moved back a bit to take in the whole plant and there they were, eight, nine, ten separate eggs and all in spiders' webs! It turned out that she was walking along the branches and leaves until she found a spider's web. She would then swing her abdomen to very quickly touch the web, sticking an egg in it. It was happening so fast, I was actually missing it!

How safe would these eggs be? I am sure that if I were a predatory insect, I wouldn't go near the eggs. And what about the caterpillars emerging from the eggs? Surely the spiders would eat them.

No, not at all. As soon as they eat their way free of their eggs, the caterpillars attach a life-line to the spiders' webs and like a group of abseilers, they lower themselves slowly down until they find a leaf or branch of the food plant.

But how do they know what to eat? There is every possibility that they could abseil onto the wrong plant.

After talking it over with a few other "butterfly observers," we deduced that maybe the dance the female was performing on the plant, with the dragging of the abdomen, was actually her way of putting the scent of the foodplant onto the eggs. The larvae, on emerging, would then eat their eggshells, and imprint the taste of the foodplant in their sensory organs.

I took some eggs home and placed them on a Flintwood I have in an egg hatching pot. (I keep a variety of larval foodplants in pots, so that I can observe life cycles of butterflies in the relatively 'predator free' environment of my shade-house.)

The larvae are a greenish colour and seem to be quite hairy. These hairs are, in fact, non-irritating, almost black spines.

The pupae look like they could be used for christmas tree decorations. They are green, with ten slender spines of various sizes along the body. These are bent on the ends and seem to be set in silver on the pupa. The spines are brown with black areas on both ends.

The adult butterfly is at first fairly small and orange, and seems to prefer slightly shady areas. The upper wings are dark brown on the outer edges, with a band of orange and finally a dark-caramel colour closest to the body. The underside of the butterfly is an all-over caramel colour.

The hindwing has seven black spots enclosed in a scalloped pattern, with a purplish sheen. The forewing has one prominent black spot and approximately four small black spots toward the leading edge. The butterfly is only five centimeters from wingtip to wingtip.

There are three foodplants listed for the larvae of the Australian Rustic on: *Flacourtia jangomas*, *Scolopia braunii* and *Xylosma ovatum*.

My preference, as mentioned previously, is *Scolopia braunii* and this is available at times from the Barung Landcare Nursery.

Further information on this subject can be had by reading, Butterflies of Australia by Common and Waterhouse, 1981.

## Predatory Mites on Rainforest Plants from Ann Moran

Australia Rainforest canopies often have densities of 1,000 to 10,000 mites per sq.m. of leaf area. Most of these mites eat fungi but some are significant plant parasites sucking sap. Some of the latter are simple feeders and are often host specific but others cause rust, galls erinea (red hair e.g. erinose mites of Lichee and Euodia or Melicope spp trees), broom blisters, big bud and other deformations. However other mites are predators - they cruise and ambush plant

## G.S.T

Don't forget G.S.T is coming!  
From 1st July all plants  
will cost 10% more.  
Buy up now and  
get 10% more environment  
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### BULK DISCOUNTS

If you are a Barung member and are buying \$200/more of plant stock, if you wish to pay in advance for large numbers of plants, a 25% discount is available.  
JUST ASK AT THE OFFICE .

parasite mites. They all eat insects' eggs (including Richmond Birdwing Butterfly eggs unfortunately) as they forage. Producing a balance between predatory and parasitic mites in ecosystems is one goal of Integrated Pest Management Systems.

Smooth leaves in the canopy are a hazardous place for mites to live. Hairy leaves have been shown to have predatory mites for residents. However David Walter and others have shown that the densest populations of the good guys are on leaves with domatia.

Domatia are specialized structure-like little houses consisting of tufts of hairs, pits in vein angles, little pockets or igloo domes found on the backs of leaves in plants of thirty different families. Botanists use these tiny structures to help identify plants eg. *Rhodosphecia rhodanthema*, Deep yellow-wood, has conspicuous tufts of brown hairs on leaflet undersurface.

Plant parasite mites do not seem to use domatia often - even in population out breaks. However predatory mites and scavengers make up 90% of the mite population inside domatia, and leaves with domatia have many more predatory mites than those without. Experimental work has been done to test all these statements, involving controls where leaf domatia were blocked off with bitumenous paint or shaved off, all leading to the conclusion that the presence of domatia (shelter/houses) increases the resident population of predatory mites. The domatia have also been found to provide protection and shelter for molting mites and predator mites' eggs.

More than ¾ of all eggs laid by predatory mites are found in domatia.

Work is currently underway to find ways of using the increasing knowledge of the lives of mites to control parasite mites in agricultural crops.

The above information was gleaned from David Walter's book (from Qld University) with his permission.

From Walter, D.E. and Proctor, H. (1999) Mites Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour CABI Publishing, New York, USA.

## HELP

The Office Admin computer grinds to a halt by 2pm each day We desperately need another box capable of handling Office 2000 and MYOB.

Please ring Angie if you can help - we're overloaded!!

## OLYMPIC TREE PLANTERS WANTED

Barung has been granted two \$2,500 grants from Landcare Australia Ltd. to plant 2,000 trees at community treeplant sites on August 5th 2000. These sites are at Peace Park in Landsborough and on the Mary River in Conondale.

The events are part of a nationwide Olympic Treeplant for Landcare Month. Both treeplants will be attended by a former Olympian, to whom the site will be dedicated.

Peace Park in Landsborough, situated at the bottom of the Landsborough hill with tennis courts and oval, contains some valuable remnant rainforest buffering Mellum Creek. The park is also the watershed to Ewen Maddock Dam. The proposed revegetation works will replace weed infestations and contribute to nutrient uptake and protection of the remnant.

At Conondale, the revegetation works on the Mary River will contribute to stabilising the erosion prone riverbanks, and provide habitat and protection for the endangered Mary River Cod.

Both the Landsborough and Conondale events will be Caloundra City's key landcare projects for the Olympics, involving local schools, sporting and community groups. We will be creating a Gold Tree, the Landcare icon, at the high profile Landsborough site to raise awareness of Landcare around the Range, so keep an eye out - you won't miss it!

Volunteers for assisting with organisation beforehand or on the day would be greatly appreciated.

And of course your attendance to plant a few trees will ensure another successful tree plant for our environment.

Keep an eye on local media for updates.

Keep August 5th free  
to join the festivities.  
To volunteer some time  
or for further info call  
Barung on 5494 3151.

## AUGUST 5TH



with Josi Marriott, Reveg Officer

## CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS - WHAT ARE THEY ALL ABOUT? (PART 2)

Last issue we described the three main types of conservation agreements currently available, describing in detail the Land for Wildlife program. These main three agreements are:

1. Land for Wildlife, facilitated through local government, is the easiest to join and most flexible, offering technical advice, workshops, field days, a newsletter and member networks;
2. local council Voluntary Conservation Agreements are currently available through only a few councils, may be title binding or non-title binding, and often include assistance through rate rebates and on-ground contributions; and
3. the State Government Environmental Protection Agency's Nature Refuge Agreement currently offers the highest level of conservation protection landholders can put on their property.

### CONSERVATION AGREEMENT PROFILE: NATURE REFUGE AGREEMENTS

The Nature Conservation Act provides several ways for landholders to formally commit themselves to protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat as an integral part of managing their properties.

Emphasis is on multiple use - managing land and resources for a variety of purposes which do not degrade them but lead to long term sustainable and productive use. Landholders have the opportunity to have some or all of their land declared 'nature refuge' or join with others in a 'coordinated conservation area'. Conditions for managing these areas are set out in a 'conservation agreement'.

Few agreements exist to date, largely due to limited officers being available to assess and prepare them. Those in place apply mainly to larger properties with 'of concern' ecosystem types and/or rare and endangered species.

**NATURE REFUGE:** under the Act, a 'nature refuge' may be declared over land of any size or tenure. The purpose is to manage the land to conserve 'its significant natural resources', to provide for controlled use of its natural resources, and to consider the interests of landholders. Part or all of the property may be included in the declaration and ownership remains with landholders.

**CONSERVATION AGREEMENT:** a contract between the Minister for Environment and Heritage (for the Qld. Government) and the landholder, outlining those activities that can occur on the nature refuge and tailored to suit the management needs of the particular area. For example, conditions could be comprehensive or simply directed at protecting a particular species of plant or animal. In most situations, overall property management will not change significantly. A conservation agreement can be for a certain time period (as determined by the landholder), or can be permanent and registered on the title.

**COORDINATED CONSERVATION AREAS:** should several landholders wish to jointly protect nature on adjacent lands, a coordinated conservation area can be declared. An agreement between each landholder and the Minister is necessary.

**VARIATION:** terms may be varied by a fresh agreement between the Minister and the landholder. Under certain circumstances, a nature refuge can be revoked if the original landholder and the Minister agree that the land is no longer fulfilling the purpose for which it was declared.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Suitability of the nominated area will be assessed considering the particular values of its plants and animals, its location as a corridor between other parcels of natural lands, special features of the site and the occurrence of rare or threatened species or communities. As a result of this assessment only some areas will be recommended for declaration as nature refuge. Upon recommendation, people with an interest in or affected by the land, are given notice of the proposal and invited to make submissions. A conservation agreement may then be negotiated and a nature refuge declared. If the agreement contains terms that bind successors, its existence will be registered on the land title and continue with any new owner.

For information on eligibility and further information contact the National Parks and Wildlife office at Moggill on 07 3202 0200, or write to the Regional Services Director, Environment Protection Agency, Qld Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 42, Kenmore 4069.

## HABITAT 2000 RECEIVES A BOOST

The Sunshine Coast Environment Council (S.C.E.C.) has been successful in its funding application with Jupiters Casino to enable it to complete the Noosa and Caboolture Shire phases of the Habitat 2000 Project.

This will build onto the mapping of habitat corridors already completed in Caloundra City and Maroochy Shire.

This project forms the basis of Barung's Corridors of Green project, identifying strategic corridors for revegetation protection and enhancement works.

For information on Habitat 2000, please call Krister Waern on 5441 5747.

## Farmers subsidised to fence riverbanks

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) is offering funds to landholders wishing to fence remnants of native vegetation on their river and creekbanks, commonly known as the riparian zone. Funds are also available to re-establish vegetation in a riparian zone if this area has been cleared in the past. The MRCCC says the program will help landowners recover some of the costs of materials involved in fencing and re-vegetating areas on their properties for improved farm and riparian zone management.

The program is known as the Voluntary Riverbank Restoration Grants Scheme. Private landholders in the Mary River Catchment are eligible to apply for a grant if they are planning to fence remnants of native vegetation for stock control within the riparian zone.

Project Officer Brad Wedlock says he hopes that local landholders will take advantage of the scheme. "This project allows landholders to undertake restoration works now instead of in the future. In the past this sort of work would have been placed lower down the list of things to do due to the cost. Therefore this initiative is a good opportunity for landowners to be reimbursed for some of the costs involved in restoring riparian vegetation and managing stock in these areas."

This project is funded partly by the Natural Heritage Trust and partly by local government authorities in the Mary River Catchment.

For more information about the Voluntary Riverbank Restoration Grant Scheme, contact Brad Wedlock on 5482 4766 or 0408 745 840.

## FAREWELL SAMBO

It is with sadness that all at Barung say good-bye to Sam Pickering.

Sam came down from Darwin to join the Barung team almost exactly a year ago as the supervisor for our third Green Corps team and returns to Darwin next week, leaving behind many friends in the Maleny and Barung communities.

We wish you all the best in your travels and hope that your friends and family in the Territory recognise you without your curls!

Please keep in touch and know that you always have a home here in Maleny.

## GET THOSE WINTER GROUNDCOVERS IN:

Now is the time to spread that rye seed on your reveg sites. In frost prone areas it will assist in sheltering young trees, but remember that it will grow to around a metre in height, so mark your trees with bamboo stakes or similar so you can find them again! As a winter grass, the seed will strike now and persist until the weather warms up. We found it highly successful in protecting plants through winter, providing some competition in spring/early summer, and enhancing growth as it dies back, leaving a thick mulch over our sites.

Rye seed is available now from Dairyfarmers/Queenseo, Coral Street, Maleny. For effective cover seed should be applied at a rate of 40 kg/ha (for those with smaller areas this equals 40g/10m<sup>2</sup>).

### WWF SEQ RAINFOREST RECOVERY Call for Landholder Assistance Applications

Landholders are invited to submit applications for assistance in managing rainforest remnants for:

- \* fencing materials;
- \* weed management;
- \* technical advice; and
- \* conservation agreement facilitation.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - AUGUST 31ST**

Contact Keryn Hyslop at SEQ Rainforest on:

ph: 07 3202 0251 fax: 07 3202 6844

email: keryn.hyslop@env.qld.gov.au



## THE END IS NIGH.

## ROUND 14 GREEN CORPS DRAWS TO A CLOSE. from Becky Ray

No more invasion of Josi's office space, no more shouting "Spencer!?!?", and no more wandering secateurs!

The last six months has filled my life with many lessons and challenges, from the first day - walking into Barung not knowing anyone - to the last, when I look around at the team and feel a sense of family. We have all gained a further appreciation of work ethics, team work and acceptance.

The diverse project has seen us pulling weeds, digging holes, pouring concrete, dodging the more unpleasant local wildlife, and building up our biceps while discovering the many facets of our amazing environment and the crazy little idiosyncrasies of fellow teammates. I'm sure we've raised a few eyebrows as passers-by have caught us in the midst of delirium-induced secret green corps language full of 'B' words and strange alien sounds.

Before starting Green Corps I had no idea of some of the tasks that I would be doing. I remember the first morning of boardwalk construction at Mary Cairncross. Chris Allen pulled out the plans and I sat there in dumbfounded confusion as he proceeded to explain the project in technical engineering terms that I had never heard before, and thinking: "How the hell am I gonna do this!!" Well, it's completed, ready to tango across, and I assure you I will never walk over a boardwalk the same again.

I am grateful for the enhanced appreciation that Green Corps has given me of the fragility of this earth. It's so easy to cut down a tree, but to re-establish an area is involved and multi layered. Working in Mary Cairncross has been a major highlight. A beautiful relationship with the forest has blossomed over the last 2 months. Each day the Reserve would reveal new treasures to us as the forest reflected a different light.

Working in service to the earth is an enlightening, humbling and fascinating experience. I am so glad that I have had this opportunity.

Many thanks to my teammates and Sambo, and to all the amazing people encountered through this project. Thank you for your support, inspiration and passion.

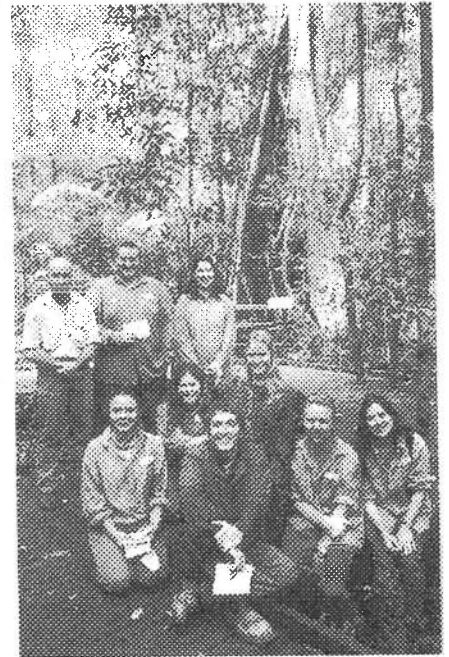
## from Barung

It was with both sadness and great expectations that we farewelled our 4th Green Corps team on Friday 26th May. This enthusiastic team have contributed enormously to Barung and the local community during their 6 month traineeship - from fencing, preparing and supervising the Bridge the Gap tree plant in February to maintaining over 5,000 young trees and planting up several thousand more.

Their most visible contribution to the community has been the construction of the Mary Cairncross boardwalk to protect 'the big fig'. This boardwalk will stop pedestrian access through the tree - the cause of its decline through compaction and spread of fungal spores. The crew put in overtime, working in wet weather and often difficult conditions to complete the boardwalk in time.

On behalf of Barung members and the local community we thank them and wish them the very best for future endeavours in the landscape conservation and restoration industry.

A new team commences 26th June, and we've plenty of work experience to provide to compliment their formal training!



*Graduation Day and the opening of the Boardwalk*

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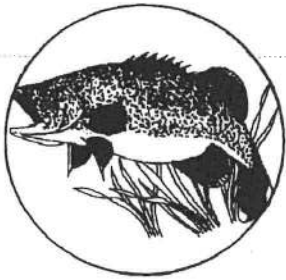


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## Mary River Cod Community Network

### "Adopt a Riverbank" focus school - Cooroora Secondary College, Pomona from Leisa Riggs

The Environmental Education students of Cooroora College have begun work on their "Adopt a Riverbank" site in Factory St., Pomona. This ten acre site was purchased through Noosa Council's Green Levy and has areas of both remnant rainforest and tea-tree, and of course, lots of weeds.

In the first week we checked out the site with Colin Hastie from Noosa Landcare, identified the weed species and finished the afternoon with a tour of the Gerry Cook Hatchery at Lake McDonald. Unfortunately the



Cooroora College students identify weeds on their "Adopt a Riverbank" site in Pomona.



options for their futures in the environment field.

Another class at Cooroora College is due to begin on a site at the base of Cooroy Mountain in early June, and we will keep you posted about progress here.

*Students waiting for the cod to 'perform' at the Lake MacDonalld Hatchery.*

### Cod need YOU. Do you need WWF? from Phillip Trendall Cod Habitat Extension Officer

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has been helping with the recovery of Mary River Cod since 1994.

The early stages involved setting up the recovery team and in 1997, a Habitat Mapping Extension Officer was placed in the area. Since then, cod habitat has been mapped throughout the catchment and we now have maps covering more than 350 km of habitat. These maps provide us with an indication of areas throughout the catchment that require protection or rehabilitation to help save cod habitat. Protection of habitat may involve weed control and encouraging natural regeneration, while rehabilitation may require more extensive revegetation works and fencing/off-stream watering points for stock control.

With this knowledge we can target priority areas to help save the cod, but the cod needs support from everyone in our catchment if this is to happen. We all have an opportunity to help save and protect our unique icon. If you're interested in helping or just unsure about how you can, please contact me.

WWF can help provide a range of information and advice relating to the recovery of the Mary River Cod. This includes habitat maps to show stream vegetation conditions and the weeds present along your riparian zone. WWF have also prepared a riparian vegetation species database for cod habitat that includes propagation techniques and a calendar for seed collection.

Technical advice and property visits to help with such things as weed control and site management plans for revegetation works is another way in which WWF is helping our community to save not only the Mary River Cod, but our catchment as well.

Good luck in restoring your bit of cod habitat.



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**CORRIDORS OF GREEN**  
*from MARE RUSSELL*

Although it may seem a little over the top lately, the wet weather has been a

godsend for our "Bridge the Gap" tree plant. Congratulations and thanks to

all those involved in making February 12<sup>th</sup> an overwhelming success. The trees are already growing well and maintenance has begun.

Thank you to Noel and Jenny Law and the hardworking band of volunteers and TAFE students who have been weeding and staking trees on Bridge Creek corridors. A little bit of extra attention during the early growth stages ensures that our valuable plantings succeed. Anyone interested in joining us for a pleasant morning of treeplanting and/or weeding alongside the creek, can meet us at Barung at 8.30 on the first Thursday of each month.

The Bridge Creek phase of the Corridors of Green (COG) project is going very well. Public and landholder support has been overwhelming and we are now looking at additional plantings and fencing along the creek. I urge all those participants who have not yet picked up their trees, to aim at doing so by the end of June.

Preliminary work for establishing and enhancing wildlife corridors on Obi Obi Creek (between town and Lake Baroon) and the Mary River headwaters (Policemans Spur area) is underway and we are hoping for a similar level of participation from landholders in these areas. It is only through working together that we will ensure the long-term survival of our unique forests.

If you are interested in getting involved in the COG project please feel free to ring me on 5494 9608.

## GROWING TREES: Secrets of the Rainforest from George Whitlam

The best kept secrets of the rainforest are those we cannot see.

The role of microscopic microbes is but one example. Microbes are the driving force of the rainforest ecosystem. Trees thrive or suffer depending on the microbes around their roots.

Different microbes have different jobs. Some microbes feed trees by decomposing organic mulch, supplying nutrients and hormones. Others kill disease-causing organisms.

The next time you see cows grazing, remember that the population of soil microbes in that paddock can weigh as much as 100 times the weight of the cows. As with cattle though, soil livestock require proper management.

There are many sorts of microbes that bring the soil to life and those important for farm forestry are bacteria and fungi. Research shows that the best balance of bacteria and fungi for promoting tree growth is different to that which promotes pasture growth. Grasses do best in soil dominated by bacteria whereas trees thrive in soil dominated by fungi.

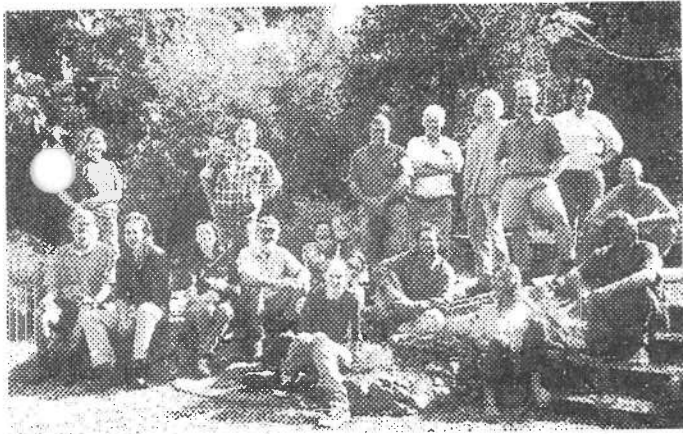
To complicate matters further, there are fungi and fungi. Some fungi (such as vascular arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi or VAM) benefit trees of certain families (e.g. as meliaceae) but not others (e.g. proteaceae). Ectomycorrhizal fungi are more typically beneficial.

One of the challenges to converting degraded pasture into commercial rainforest is that many beneficial soil microbes have died or are the wrong ones for growing trees. Fungi, for example, can only reproduce while growing in association with trees. Perhaps the simplest way to tackle this problem is to add a very small amount of healthy rainforest soil to each planting hole to 'inoculate' the soil with beneficial microbes.

The microbe balance in pasture soils can also be changed by feeding the fungi which are low in number relative to the bacteria. Bacteria thrive on green organic matter, whereas fungi like brown plant material high in cellulose, lignin and tannin. Ensure that enough nitrogen is present to start decomposition, without encouraging bacterial growth. It is also important to reduce the use of herbicides as herbicides destroy microbes.

For faster revegetation of degraded pastures, feed your soil's secret life.

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK CELEBRATED




Pictured above with Barung staff are some of the many volunteers who help out every week at the Resource Centre.

As a non-profit community group, Barung depends heavily on its wonderful volunteer base, especially in the nursery and for community treeplants, the Expo, in the office, with newsletter distribution, weeding, catering, on sub-committees and even the Management Committee. Without the support of this tireless band of workers, Barung would not be where it is today.

In celebration of our volunteers, our volunteer coordinator, Anni Philp, organised a volunteer party mid-May, to say thank you to this great band of helpers.

Thanks to all of you - for your help, your humour and your endless patience. We love you all!



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 FOR AUG - SEPT NEWSLETTER  
**FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

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MALENY-KENILWORTH ROAD, CONONDALE

## TREE TALK

by Tony Wootton

Hello again tree people. I hope you've been out touching, observing, connecting with and learning from the trees that are part of your life. This issue's Tree Talk is devoted to discussing an important lesson reiterated to me recently by several trees I know.

**Epicormic Shoots:** "Epicormic" is an unusual, scary sounding word, but my limited grasp of Latin tells me it simply means "outer layer". An epicormic shoot is one that grows from the outer layer of the tree i.e. from just underneath the bark as opposed to a true branch which has its origins deep in the heart of the tree.

Epicormic shoots can occur when, as we discussed in the last issue looking at target pruning, a limb is "lopped" leaving a protruding stub. The shoots or suckers springing from the cut stub are epicormic shoots. You have probably observed these following lopping operations on trees or pruning operations on shrubs. They can also occur when part of the canopy is removed, exposing sections of bare trunk to sunlight.

There are numerous disadvantages to epicormic shoots. Most importantly, they are hazardous! To illustrate why I must first briefly describe how a true branch is attached to the trunk. Each season true branches create one growth increment or ring along their length, and particularly for the purposes of this discussion, at their base. The main trunk then produces an overlapping growth increment of its own. As the seasons pass, the base of the branch becomes bound into the heart of the tree by an incredibly strong series of interlocking layers of lignous tissue (timber). Consider the fifteen metre long lateral limbs of a large fig tree with several tons of timber, foliage and fruit, attached to the trunk by a branch base a mere 3-400 mm across.

Epicormic shoots however, growing rapidly using the energy which once flowed along a lopped limb, present a large wind/sail area, and are attached by only a thin (one or two seasons) layer of tissue. Thus a limb which may have been removed as potentially hazardous, is replaced by even more hazardous epicormic shoots, all because of improper pruning practices.

Epicormic shoots are generally unsightly, destroying the natural shape, balance and dignity of a tree. Because of their weak point of attachment, they present a hazard to tree-climbers, but we'll look at that at a later date.

Epicormic shoots use a lot of the tree's energy to grow, but if they result from improper pruning practices, this growth often occurs under the shade of the remaining upper canopy, hence returning very little energy to the tree by way of photosynthesis. This in turn creates an energy deficit, causing the tree to suffer and is one reason a tree may look poorly after incorrect pruning.

To avoid epicormic shoots, 'target prune' back to the branch collar and not beyond. Even then, epicormic shoots may have to be removed periodically until wound closure is achieved. For aesthetic reasons where safety is not an issue, you may prune to create epicormic shoots, but as with all pruning work, it is a case of knowing what the result of the pruning will be before you prune.

Once again, I've only been able to briefly cover one fascinating aspect of the wonderful life of trees, so until next time, touch trees.

### EASY TAXATION GUIDE TO GROWING TREES

The second revised edition has now been published electronically.

The WEB version:

[www.forests.qld.gov.au/easytaxtree/index.html](http://www.forests.qld.gov.au/easytaxtree/index.html)

The PRINTABLE version:

[www.forests.qld.gov.au/easytaxtree/printeasytree.html](http://www.forests.qld.gov.au/easytaxtree/printeasytree.html)

## WEED OF THE MONTH

From Linda Ivezić

# STAMP OUT Giant rats tail grass

Mim Coulstock and Josi Marriott attended a Giant Rats Tail Control Day in April run by Graeme Elphinstone, Senior Extension Officer (Agriculture), Department of Primary Industries, Gympie. They have come back very worried that Maleny will see the introduction of this incredibly serious weed. As the weed is already in Mapleton and Conondale, I'm sure you will share their concern.

The problem of Giant Rats Tail (GRT) Grass raises the general issue of seed transport as a perpetrator of weed spread. Many of us have had trucks, bulldozers and bobcats on our properties when building houses, driveways and gardens. How many of you have asked the machine operator to wash down his machine before coming onto our property? Such precautions would be a way of substantially reducing weed spread around our district.

If you've never had heavy machinery on your property, maybe you buy hay or wood chips to use as garden mulch. Do you ensure that you are buying a good quality weed-seed free product? A bit of effort now, looking for a clean mulch source, even if you pay a little extra, can save a lot of time and effort spent on weed management in the future.

For farmers, farm hobbyists and horse owners there are extra precautions to take: when moving stock from an area with a particular weed not present on your property, then a quarantine period in a clean paddock before bringing stock onto your land is necessary. Any surviving weed seed in the animal's digestive tract will pass in a restricted area and weeds that emerge from the dung can be dealt with readily. Seed is also carried on animals' coats, and transported as with trucks and earth moving machinery.

It is particularly important to be aware of these three modes of seed transport if we want to protect our properties from GRT. GRT seed has a nasty advantage to facilitate transport - its coat becomes gelatinous when wet. The Giant Rats Tail Grass Best Practice Manual (copies at Barung) has meticulous instructions on cleaning machinery - those sticky little seeds get into every crevice.

**WEEDBUSTERS**  
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OF EACH MONTH



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on 5494 3497 for  
weedbuster  
dates & details  
or to find out  
just what they do to  
make weeding such fun!

## Seed to collect June - July

cont'd from back page

impossible to separate from the nut, so fresh soft fruit is essential for the cleaning process. Place the fresh fruit and a few broken bricks in a cement mixer to strip the fruit from the nut. After tumbling, we hose the flesh off the nuts over a 10mm sieve then leave the nuts out in the weather for at least 3-4 months. When soil temperatures begin to rise in spring, sow the seed and watch them grow.

All sorts of complicated procedures have been attempted when trying to germinate White beech - methods involving soaking, leaching, acid treatment, etc, but little emphasis was placed on removing the fruit. This now appears to be a crucial part in the process of germinating beech seed. I would speculate that the ecological role of the fruit (and it is quite a large fruit) was to attract a now-extinct (at least locally) fruit-eater which was large enough to swallow the fruit whole. I would also speculate that the nut evolved to be strong enough to survive the digestive system of such an animal. Cassowaries could be one possible animal, but who knows?

For the time being however, the only gizzard grinding up beech fruit on the range is the old blue cement mixer at Barung - perhaps we should nickname it "the Virtual Cassowary"!

## OTHER SEED TO COLLECT

### JUNE - JULY

- Acmena ingens* - Red apple
- Neolitsea dealbata* - White bollygum
- Acmena smithii* - Lillypilly
- Alpinia coerulea* - Native ginger
- Catanospermum australe* - Black bean
- Eupomatia laurina* - Bollwarra
- Melia azederach* - White cedar
- Pilidiostigma rhytiispermum* - Small-leaf plum myrtle.

## GRT IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE:

- \* it is an aggressive grass, quickly out-competing pasture [and native grasses] already weakened by over-grazing, drought, fire or mechanical disturbance;
- \* it is a serious threat to biodiversity;
- \* severe infestations affect land values;
- \* it can dramatically lower the economic viability of grazing, hay, turf and pasture seed industries; and
- \* if left unchecked, GRT could potentially encroach on 23% of Australia, across wide areas of Queensland, NT and WA.

All this earns two species, *Sporobolus pyramidalis* and *Sporobolus natalensis*, the status of Declared Pest P3 i.e. it must be reduced in number and distribution. All landholders have a legal responsibility to manage and control GRT plant numbers on their land and prevent it from spreading.

**ORIGIN:** introduced to Australia in contaminated pasture seed from Africa in the 1960's, GRT grass has adapted to a wide variety of soils and can survive in low rainfall areas but more commonly enjoys areas with 700 mm/year or more.

**DESCRIPTION:** GRT is a tufted perennial, growing to 1.7 m tall when seeding. Young seed heads resemble a rat's tail and when mature they generally become an elongated pyramid shape from 25 - 80 cm long. Soil can have 20,000 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> with 50% of seed still viable after 3 years.

Many native species of *Sporobolus* can be identified by hairs on the leaf margin where the leaf blade and sheath join. GRT grass does not have these hairs. Another identification method is the "100 twist test". The GRT grass blade is so tough that it will not break even if you wrap it around your finger 100 times, whereas other species break after a couple of twists.

GRT tussocks are distinct, well rooted and very difficult to pull out of the ground. The mature leaves are tough and not very palatable to stock. Stock are slow to grow and put on weight if grazed on pastures heavily infested with GRT grass.

**WHAT TO DO:** Be vigilant. Whether you live in a GRT infested or a GRT free area, you should familiarise yourself with this weed. Management methods must be determined by the severity of infestation to avoid wasting time, energy and chemical. The GRT Best Practice Manual outlines appropriate management plans for different densities of infestation. Barung will be holding GRT Identification Field Days in Mapleton and Conondale in the near future, followed by GRT Management Workshops to help you plan your most efficient methods for control.

Graham Elphinstone is a professional who can provide you with support and advice and can be contacted on 5482 1522.

If you have GRT on your land, you are responsible for control and prevention of its spread. National Parks & Wildlife Dept., Forestry Dept., Dept. of Main Roads and local councils are equally obligated to control the spread of any GRT occurring on their land. Please notify the appropriate department if you spot Giant Rats Tail grass on roadsides, in forests or parks.

# STAMP OUT Giant rats tail grass

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## A hard nut to crack . . .

The White beech (*Gmelina leichhardtii*) is a common tree of the Blackall Range and much in demand for reveg and timber plantings. However, until recently, the secret of germinating reasonable quantities of seed has eluded us.

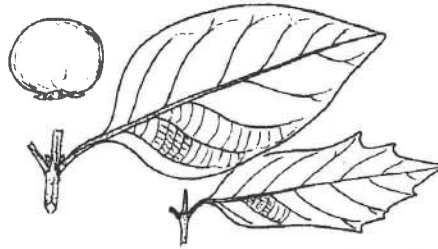
The fruit are often easy to collect in huge quantities - 20-30 kg in ½ hour under a heavily bearing tree would not be extraordinary. That is a lot of fruit to carry around when you might only be lucky enough to germinate a few seedlings

The trick to 'cracking these nuts' I discovered, strangely enough, by the side of the road in the gravel below a majestic old tree. Fruit falling on the road had been stripped of their fleshy outer layer by passing vehicles. They had then rolled to

Seed to collect in June - July

by SPENCER SHAW

*Gmelina leichhardtii* (White beech)



*Gmelina leichhardtii* juvenile leaf  
(Whitebeech)

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

the roadside where they had sat in the full heat of the sun and been washed by the rain. When we collected the beech nuts they had been on the roadside for three months. Due to their weathering for this period, previously unnoticed doors in the bottom of the shell began to reveal themselves and some had fallen off completely, revealing their seed. The nuts we collected and planted in seed trays back at the nursery began to germinate in a few weeks and almost every beech nut produced a seedling.

However we did go on to find an easier way of stripping the fruit that doesn't require dodging traffic beside the road! When ripe the purple skin and white flesh of the beech fruit is easy to remove, but as soon as the flesh is bruised or begins to dry it sets hard and becomes almost

cont'd previous page

### BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Vice President	<i>David Daugaard</i>
Secretary	<i>Linda Ivezic</i>
Treasurer	<i>Neil MacLeod</i>
Committee Members	<i>Elaine Green</i> <i>Joe Herron</i> <i>Ann Moran</i> <i>Jan Tilden</i>

Barung Landcare...

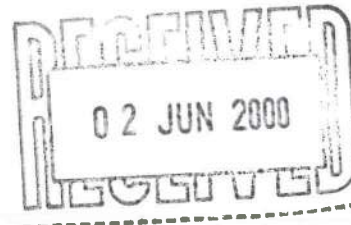


### BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION STAFF

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Nursery Guru	<i>Denise Irons</i>
Assistant Nurseryman	<i>Nick Willis</i>
Butterfly Guru	<i>Bob Miller</i>
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Farmcare Officer	<i>John Muir</i>
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