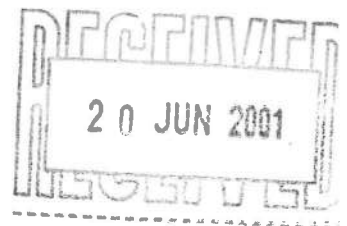


BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

June - July 2001



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE



Statement by Mr Bruce Lloyd,
Chairman, Australian Landcare Council

Landcare Congratulates Government on the extension of Natural Heritage Trust



AUSTRALIAN
LANDCARE
COUNCIL

The Australian Landcare Council, the peak community advisory body in Australia on natural resources management policy, congratulates the Federal Government on the five-year extension of the Natural Heritage Trust, announced recently in the Federal Budget.

The Council is delighted that the Federal Government will allocate one billion dollars over five years from July 2002 to June 2007, continuing its investment in natural resource management through the Natural Heritage Trust since 1997. Matching contributions from the State Governments and local communities will significantly increase the total.

The Council also welcomes the Minister's assurance that this program is allocated from the Budget and not from privatisation funds.

The Natural Heritage Trust is currently preparing for its final year of operation, 2001-2002. Confirmation of continued support has long been awaited the community landcare groups who provide much of the on-ground work in the natural resource management and conservation programs within the Trust.

This announcement of the extension of the Trust a year ahead of its commencement is reassuring and will build confidence in the landcare community.

Along with the Federal investment of \$700m in the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, to commence in July 2001, the \$1 000 million investment in the extended Natural Heritage Trust will provide a renewed thrust for further natural resource management programs, with more emphasis on regional delivery and on building the capacity of the communities delivering them.

For the Natural Heritage Trust, operating across Australia, and for the National Action Plan, to operate in twenty-one specified regions, volunteers in more than 4 000 landcare groups provide the accepted community support and delivery model with the flexibility to adapt to the new arrangements. Many landcare groups are already networked and working in regions and subcatchments. The landcare movement will play a leading role in implementing regional plans.

The Australian Landcare Council has offered its detailed advice on policy directions for appropriate delivery, including the building of community capacity, and support for landcare groups through strategic placement of facilitators and co-ordinators.

The Council calls on the Commonwealth Government not to forget the positive value of the 'landcare' name or brand, which is known and supported by over 80% of Australians.

*Earth Alive!
Biodiversity Month &
National Threatened
Species Day
- how can you get involved?*



*Threatened to the
brink of
extinction,
the Coxen's
Fig Parrot
was once found
on the Blackall
Range.*

Earth Alive! Biodiversity Month and National Threatened Species Day 2001 are on again in September.

Biodiversity Month provides a national focus to celebrate and promote local biodiversity, and increase your community's understanding and involvement in local biodiversity conservation projects.

This year, Biodiversity Month is being organised with National Threatened Species Day, held every year on 7 September to mark the date in 1936 that the last known Tasmanian Tiger died. It aims to raise awareness about Australia's threatened species and encourage all Australians to get involved in their conservation.

Earth Alive! Biodiversity Month this year will be encouraging the community to get their 'Hands on for Habitat' and create a garden haven for wildlife. If you have any ideas how we on the Range can focus attention on our local biodiversity with a community project, please ring Mim at Barung.

Barung, along with environmental groups and organisations from around Australia will soon be organising events aimed at educating and involving anyone willing to learn about our precious biodiversity.

For more information about National Threatened Species Day, contact the Threatened Species Network on 1800 251 573

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Barrett	Steven Perry
Justin Grothe	Jessie Begun
Paul Mackay	Sue Sanders
Nicole Choveaux	Melissa Staples & Greg
Matt & Kym Stanton	Ashforth
Jan & Ross Munro	G W Sales
David Porter	Nev & Steph Braden
R Brieschke & Sue Hunt	Grace Warwick & Family
Paul Lloyd	Cohen

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

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DEADLINE
FOR **AUGUST - SEPT** NEWSLETTER
WEDNESDAY 18TH July

Please let us know of any change of address so we can keep membership data up-to-date. Please renew your memberships - your support is very important to Barung.

THANKYOU

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

While surveying shops in Maleny's main street to ascertain the benefits of the From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo for local businesses, I was very pleased to hear so many comments about how many people were attracted into the town. Some of the interviewees had managed to fit in a visit to the Expo during the weekend and the comment of "What a great event!" was not unusual.

Due to the success of the Expo, Barung can now afford to keep the Resource Centre open and to cover most of the administration wages for the coming year. The Management Committee and staff do occasionally wonder if all our members realize that, except for special project funding e.g. Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), Barung receives no government funding of any sort for running expenses. If the opportunity arises, members could help Barung by spreading the word that Barung is not a government organisation, as many in the community think that Barung's activities are all government funded.

A very big 'THANK YOU' to the many Barung members, staff, and others who volunteered so willingly to make the Expo such a success - both financially and from an organisational point of view. Already we are thinking about next year which will have some new features as well as the favourites from the past. The fantastic support we received from local businesses showed yet again the strength of the local Maleny community.

Barung is currently experiencing a shortage of office volunteers. The tasks are varied, from computer work, mail outs, errands up town, to photocopying etc. If you can spare a couple of hours each fortnight it would help to make the Resource Centre run smoothly.

Since the last newsletter Barung has welcomed our sixth Green Corps team. We are sorry to have said goodbye to Jo K... , their supervisor, who has moved to Canberra, but welcome Guy Morgan in her place. We are also hosting Maleny's first (and one of Queensland's first) Green Reserve team. This team comprises six mature aged people who have a variety of skills from which Barung will benefit, as well as being able to provide extensive on-ground revegetation experience for them.

In the next newsletter we will be giving you AGM details and calling for nominations for the Management Committee. Could you please consider nominating for one of the nine positions as all are declared vacant at the AGM. Any Barung member is invited to attend the monthly Management Committee meetings which are held on the fourth Wednesday. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 28th June at Barung at 6pm.

Many thanks, once again, to all of you who helped make the Expo such a success. Special thanks to Elaine Green who organised and co-ordinated the event and to Julie Lehman who ably assisted her. The weeks of volunteer hours which went into this event were well worth everyone's efforts. To be able to educate, entertain and also raise funds is a great achievement. Thanks also to the Barung committee of some years ago who thought up the concept. Long may it continue to be such a success.

EDUCATION NEWS

from Mim Coulstock

Thanks to FITEC (Forest Industry Training and Education Consortium), Barung is offering subsidised courses in both Chainsaw Level 1 and ACDC (Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control) later in June and early July.

Chainsaw Level 1 will cover Occupational Health and Safety, duty of care, protective equipment, chainsaw components and servicing, and hazards identification as well as crosscutting. Level 1 is a prerequisite for the Level 2 course which covers treefelling. Cost is \$45 (normally \$198). Day 1 will be held at Barung and Day 2 out in the field, chainsaw in hand.

The ACDC Course qualifies participants to use chemicals on public land. Cost to participants will be \$55 which includes copies of the Pesticide Application Manual and the Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control Act, the examination fee and one full day. Training will be followed by an open book, multiple choice examination. All training and examination will take place at the Barung Resource Centre in Bicentenary Lane, Maleny.

Please ring Barung immediately on 5494 3151 to book a place in either / both course/s. Course numbers are limited with many places already reserved. Pre-payment of the full fees is required by Wednesday 20th June for the Chainsaw Course and by Wednesday 27th June for ACDC.

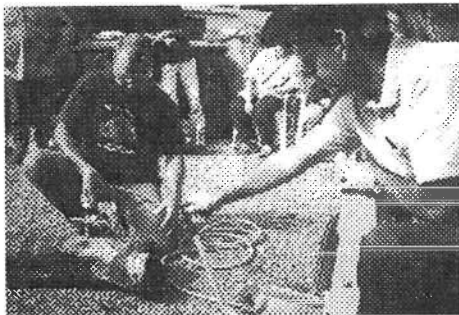


*Peter Bell, CCC
Noxious Plants
Supervisor
demonstrates the
Sidewinder to
Barung staff, Green
Reserves and Green
Corps at our first
Training Session*

By the time this newsletter goes to print, we will have finalised the Agreement for private landholders to use the Sidewinder machine donated to Barung by Caloundra City Council for privet and other woody weed control.

Land-holders must complete a Sidewinder Training Session at Barung before using the machine and a small fee will be charged to cover associated costs. Any landholder using the

new Sidewinder is responsible for returning it to Barung in good working condition. Please ring Mim, Clay or Russell at Barung if you wish to borrow the Sidewinder or attend a Training Session.



Many thanks to our local Councillor, Pauline Clayton, and Caloundra City Council for making this great machine available. May all our privet die quickly!

I hope that all Barung members visited the environment display at the 2001 Maleny Show. Caloundra City Council's Noxious Weed division, Qld National Parks and Wildlife Service and DNR's Environmental Weed Officer joined forces with Barung, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and Worldwide Fund for Nature to provide a real environmental statement at the Show this year.

The display aroused a lot of interest and brought local environmental issues to the fore over the two days. Thanks to the Green Corps for their assistance in setting up.

I have received some interest in running a "Roping and Rigging" workshop - for those who are interested in 'off-the-ground' silvicultural pursuits! Please let me know if you would like to participate in such a day and I will attempt to organise it.

Barung has an exciting new project coming up working with Year 8 and 9 students from Maleny High School. As part of the Green and Healthy Schools program, we are in the process of helping these young students decide what improvements can be made to their school using trees in the landscape. Any parents of these children who would like to be involved in these projects are more than welcome to join in.

Welcome to Gordon Agnew, the new Coordinator for Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG). Gordon is a welcome addition to the team at LBCCG - joining Mandy Botterell (Education Officer) in working for the health of the Lake Baroon catchment. Both Gordon and I are keen to see Barung and LBCCG working more closely in the future - there is huge scope for joint projects aimed at achieving a resilient and diverse natural environment, protecting both our unique biodiversity and our precious water resources.

Barung's new Green Reserves team are doing a fantastic job out on the ground round town. They have been working on the Primary School creek site, weeding and brushcutting in preparation for sowing a mulch crop of rye which will see this site safely through the winter. It is a pleasure to have you on board the Starship Barung! Thank you all.

Thank you to ...

... *Angela Todd & Elaine Green* for manning the Barung stall to World Environment Day in Cottontree on Sunday June 10th.

... *Lin Fairlie* for manning the Barung stall at the Enviro Expo in Landsborough on Sunday June 3rd and at Earth Celebration Day at CCC on Tuesday June 6th.

... *Linda Ivezić, Julie Lehmann & Lin Fairlie* for helping with Barung's display at the Maleny Show and to *Brad Owens, Lin Fairlie, Linda Ivezić, Laurie Capill, Vivien Coleman & Tim O'Keefe* for their help in pulling it down..

. CONCRETING .

DOMESTIC
COMMERCIAL
FORMWORK

Phillip Vickers
Q.B.S.A. Lic. No. 059 931

STAMPED
EXPOSED
PLAIN

Ph/Fax: 5494 2109

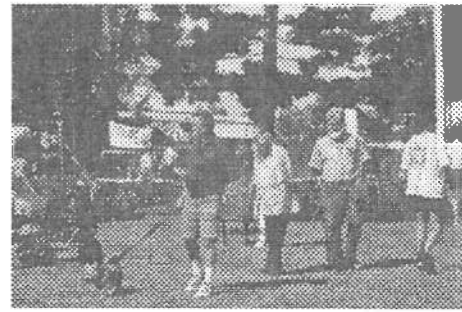
Mobile: 0418 882 785

... to Fine Furniture thankyou to all our volunteers ...

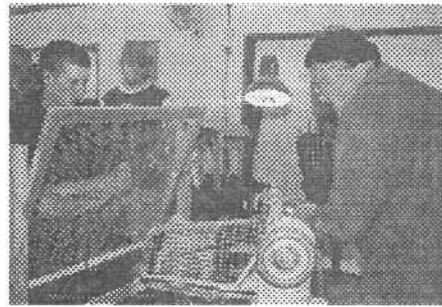
John Ambrose
David Armstrong
Jake Austin
Tom Avis
Glenis Ayling
Faith Baigent
Douglas Bailey
Meg Barrett
Frank Beattie
John Bennett
Magnus Berggren
Michael Berry
Kathryn Blackburn
Win Boon
Mandy Botterell
Russell Botterell
James Bradbury
Tom Bradbury
Mark Bradford
Michelle Bray
Lily Brisick
Ward Brisick
Lyn Bromet
Julie Brown
Peter Brunton
Trish Brunton
Eliza Burfein
Laurie Capill
Pauline Clayton
Ki Cornwall
Mim Coulstock
Amy Covington
David Dauguaard

Joan Dillon
John Dillon
Colin Dodd
Noel Dugdale
Gretchen Evans
David Fairlie
Lin Fairlie
Cate Fraser
Jenny Gibson
Bernie Gilmour
Noah Gordon
Ben Green
Elaine Green
Inga Green
Justin Grothe
Hayley Harrison
Joe Herron
Kay Herron
Frances Higgins
Glen Higson
Brenda Holligan
Craig Hosmer

Rob Leathem
John Lee
Jocelyn Leech
Julie Lehmann
Luke Lossberg
Marg Lowe
Steve Lowe
Gillian Macleod
Neil Macleod
Shirley Marsh
Peter Marsh



Kylie Smith
Iris Sparsho.
John Sparshott
Kym Stanton
Sue Starling
Pat Stickley
Adam Summers
Gary Swanson
Lois Tarling
Lloyd Taylor
Peter Taylor
Andrew Thorburn
Wendy Thorpe
Lionell Tilley
Michelle Tuck
Scott Turnbull
Kate Vickers
Philip Vickers
Jonathan Waites
Alan Walker
Pam Walker
David Walto.
Vera Wearing
Vic & Pat Weaver
Jenny Webber
Robert Webber
John Wildman
Christy Willis
Nick Willis
Roslyn Wilson
Sam Windsor
Wanda Wong
Kevin Wong
Lawrence Wray
Alan Wynn



Ann Oliver
Gillian Pechey
John Pennie
Rod Phillips
Eunice Prickett
Ted Prickett
Judy Regan
Michael Regan
Keir Reid
Daryl Reinke
Rod Richards
Yvonne Richards
Bill Richter
Margaret Richter
Mark Ricketts
Margaret Rimmer
Sammy Ringer
Ben Risby-Jones
Steve Roberts
Cilla Rose
Danny Rose
Marc Russell
Jeff Sanger
Eve Scopes
Robert Scopes
Ashley Sewell
Karen Shaw
Spencer Shaw
Sinclair Sheldon
Clayton Stokoe
Martin Storey
Damian Svenson
Angela Todd

John Martinkovic
Leena Mason
Ted McCosker
Kerry McIntyre
Mary Meadows
Craig Medson
Deb Miles
Bob Miller
Bruce Mitchell
Tony Mraz
Ross Munro
John Muir
Marlene Murray
Simon Murray
Dick Newman
Graeme Newton
Laurelle Newton
Zane Nicholls
Mal Nicoll
Maureen O'Brien
Mitch O'Brien
Tim O'Keefe



Ken Hungerford
Henry Hurst
Linda Ivezic
Dieter Johnson
Robyn Jones
Jo Karam
Davie Keir
Andrew Keir
Irene Keton
Jenny Law
Noel Law



THANK YOU
all for
your time &
landcare
support

& thankyou

to our major sponsors:



&

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& other sponsors:

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- Malcolms of Maleny
- Maleny Arts & Crafts Group
- Maleny Harvest
- Maleny Hotel & Maleny Wine Cellars
- Maple 3
- New Mix FM 927
- Shirley Marsh
- Swiss Crust Bakery
- The Food Gallery
- The Tamarind
- The Terrace Seafood Restaurant
- Tom Coulstock
- Up Front Club
- Witta Gums Bush Cottages

WHAT A SUCCESS!

The 2001 *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Woodworking Expo attracted over 6,000 people to the Maleny Showgrounds over the May Day long weekend. The weather was more than kind to us and people came from as far afield as Bundaberg, the Gold Coast and Toowoomba to enjoy the wonderful variety of exhibits and demonstrations.

Flushed with success, the hard working team of volunteers have been inspired to make it even bigger and better next year.

Plans are afoot to do a One Tree project, similar to that done in Tasmania, but probably using a camphor laurel tree. Basically the One Tree project illustrates the immense benefits of value adding, by showing the range of products that can be made from one tree which, in the case of a camphor, would be worthless, and the real value that the finished products add.

Others are keen to expand the heritage side, keeping our traditional crafts alive.

Of course there are many ways to improve and expand the Expo. Our limitations are, as always, the number of people who become actively involved in the planning and working to implement those plans.

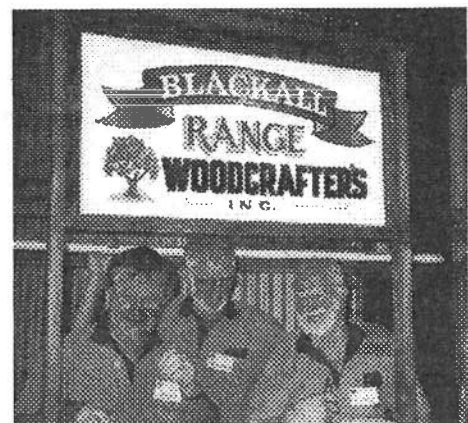
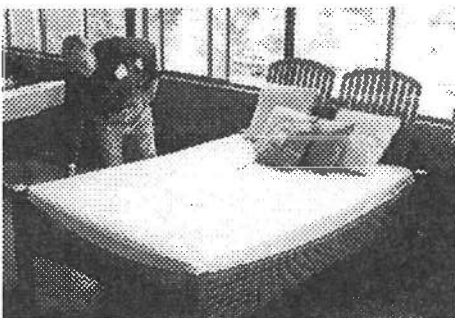
The Expo committee will start meeting again around September to put out the all important sponsorship feelers. If you would like to be more involved, please let Mim know.

I have coordinated two Expos now in a voluntary capacity and, while happy to assist, will be standing back to let someone else have a go at coordinating in 2002. My honest appraisal is that it requires a paid coordination position for at least 2 months to be a sustainable event, so the Barung committee is considering a proposal that it become part of Mim's job.

However, no one person - paid or unpaid, could possibly put on an event of the magnitude of our Expo. As always the volunteers really made it work.

Many many thanks to all those who gave cheerfully of their time.

Elaine Green,
2001 Coordinator



NURSERY NOTES *from Russell Botterell*

Winter is upon us and the threat of frost is a real consideration for anyone who has planted trees this year. Planting too long after the wet season and close to winter is always a gamble but not necessarily a total no-no. Winter can be a good time to plant some species, especially if you are not in too much danger of freezing their little tips off.

If you are looking at planting up an area, now is as good a time as any to start. Planting frost hardy, tough pioneer species in winter will allow them to establish before Spring. You can then go ahead and safely secondary plant with more sensitive climax species. The head start gained by the pioneers will offer more immediate protection, encouraging rapid establishment of your secondary planting. Food for thought.

Some frost hardy pioneer species include Acacias, Casuarinas, Eucalypts, Melaleucas, White Cedar, Deep Yellow Wood, Kurrajong, Callistemons, Lomandras, and many others.

Barung Nursery has had some huge events so far this year, all involving large quantities of plants leaving the nursery. It seems that no matter how generous we are with our sowings we are still grossly underestimating the demand for the local rainforest species.

Once again I am calling on all you observant tree watchers to keep an eye out for ripening seed on local plants. Barung is constantly seeking fresh seed supplies especially from local genetics. Unfortunately we cannot be everywhere at once so we really need your help to keep the seed pouring in. Remember to leave some for the wildlife though!

Hero status has been awarded to all participants in the Barung April Weed-o-rama. The morning was a huge success and caught up on lots of grossly overdue weeding and maintenance.

So successful was the day that we are scheduling another Weed-o-rama for Wednesday 13th June. Kick off will be at 9am and final hooter at 12pm with another culinary feast being whipped up to satisfy the hungry masses. Thanks to Rod, the master chef, for his barbeque prowess last time.

I cannot stress enough how we cherish the invaluable efforts of Barung Nursery volunteers. I hope karma catches up and smiles upon all you generous people. The invitation is open to everyone, so come along and have a satisfying day lending a hand and scoring a free lunch at the end of it.

An urgent plea is going out this month for unwanted concrete (besser) blocks. We really need to build some more racks for plants but have run out of blocks. If you have any full size besser blocks to donate, we would love to give them a new home. Either give us a call to come and collect them or drop them into the nursery. We may even name the rack after you!

We thank everyone who has supported Barung Nursery since our evolution more than ten years ago. We value your support immensely and are constantly striving to maintain and encourage public interest and involvement to provide the best quality service to you and the environment. In order to stay dynamic and in touch with growing demand, we ask that you take a few minutes to have a shot at the survey included with this newsletter. It will allow you to anonymously share your opinions and ideas with Barung.



Plant Profile *Spencer Shaw*

BOLWARRA OR COPPER LAUREL

Eupomatia laurina

The Bolwarra is a truly ancient Australian, harking from back in the age of the dinosaurs and practically a living fossil. Bolwarras occur naturally along the full length of the east coast of Australia and into New Guinea.

Often seen as a sparse understory plant in wet scleropyll forest (dominated by *Eucalyptus grandis* - Flooded Gum - in our area) these plants look great when

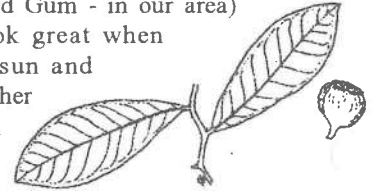
planted in full sun and spoiled like any other garden plant. In

cultivation they become a shrub

2-3 metres high by 1-1/2 metres wide with glossy bushy foliage that often turn a bright copper hue during winter.

The stems can become covered in cream-white flowers about 2-3 cm in diameter in November and December. These flowers have a sweet perfume which attracts a particular species of beetle to pollinate them. The fruit are starting to ripen now and is edible, tasting a bit like a guava.

Don't forget the humble bolwarra - it is another great little plant for reveg and / or gardening.

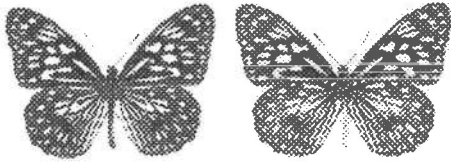


*Welcome to
Jairah Storm -
pictured here
with mum
Christy.
Jairah is the
new addition
to the Willis
(of Barung
Nursery Sales
Manager
fame) family*

Have you marked the next
**BARUNG NURSERY
WEED-O-RAMA**
& FREE BBQ
(from 9am-noon on Wednesday June 13)
in your diary yet?

Butterflies of the Range from Bob Miller

BLUE TIGER (*Tirumala hamata hamata*)



Everybody must have seen the hundreds of black and blue butterflies that have been passing through lately. These are called "Blue Tigers."

Both the male and female have a wingspan of around 72cm and are predominantly black with blue spots and streaks. The male is distinguishable from the female by a small patch of sex-scales on the hindwings. These are recognisable as a small raised area on the top and an inverted area on the underside of the hindwings.

You may have noticed huge numbers of this butterfly congregating around the Monkey Rope Vine (*Parsonsia straminea*). It was thought for a time that this might be a larval foodplant. I have climbed a tree containing such congregations and have found that every one of them to be males!

It is now thought that the male butterflies actually sip nectar from the Monkey Rope Vine flowers and scratch the leaf surfaces to obtain chemicals which they then use as pheromones to attract the females.

I have still not personally observed the early stages of this butterfly, which is very unusual considering that both the butterfly and the foodplants are fairly common.

The egg is said to be pale yellow and is normally laid on the young growth of the foodplant. The larvae have been described to me as "looking like a pale washed-out larvae of the Wanderer Butterfly." The Wanderer is the butterfly we all played with on cotton bushes as kids.

The pupae, suspended head down, is also not unlike that of the Wanderer, being bright green with golden spots and a row of bright golden spots near the back of the head.

The larval foodplants for the Blue Tiger are only stocked by a few specialist nurseries and are not easy to obtain. The best of these plants I have heard of for our area is *Secamone elliptica*.

Further information can be obtained by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby, 2000.

Please ring Russell or Angie at Barung if you are interested in becoming a Saturday morning sales volunteer in the Barung Nursery.
Reliability, a reasonable knowledge of local plants & a smiling face necessary.

Local Wild & Edible

Bernard Murawski



WARRIGAL GREENS (*Tetragonia tetragoiodes*)

While cruising the east coast of Australia in the 1770's, Captain Cook and the Endeavour crew dined upon warrigal greens (*Tetragonia tetragoiodes*) as an accompaniment to their meal of stingray. Warrigal greens were once a fashionable and exotic food

in Europe, and it has only taken us around 200 years to copy that trend where they are now in vogue in Sydney and Melbourne restaurants.

Warrigal greens are a low growing annual herb to a height of around 0.2 m with a spread of 1-2m. It inhabits sheltered beaches, salt marshes and arid plains of NSW, SA, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. It is not only native to Australia but also to New Zealand where it is known as New Zealand spinach.

The plant likes a light soil and is easy to grow in the garden, though it will do well in dry soils and really well in a good, rich soil. It likes a sunny position and once established, can tolerate drought and hot, dry conditions but does best with reliable watering and can be sensitive to frosts. It responds to leaf harvesting by growing new lateral branches, so can be continually harvested from six weeks after planting.

Being an annual, it is not long-lived though it is easy to propagate and will probably self-seed. Either sow the seed or the whole seed capsule, making sure that the capsule has not become too brown. The seed can slow to germinate and give irregular germination rates - though soaking seeds in warm water for 24 hours before sowing may help.

This one is not going to be huge hit with the kids as it tastes like spinach. First a word of warning. Like some other edible plants, warrigal greens have a high oxalate concentration. Only leaves and young stems should be eaten. Blanch both of these for 3 minutes to remove soluble oxalates and discard the water. This said, there are a number of people who place raw, young leaves in salads without ill effect. Though if in doubt, blanch the leaves, chill and then use in salads

I hope you have not been put off by the thought of writhing around on the dining room floor clutching your stomach, as this is a wonderful savoury herb that has many uses. Warrigal greens are fantastic in a curry instead of spinach in one of my favorite Indian meals - saag aloo - potatoes (or lamb) and spinach cooked in a mouth-watering curry sauce.

It can also be used in place of Asian greens in stir fries, quiches, dips, pies and stuffings. It is delicious as a pesto stirred through hot pasta and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese, or poached Tasmanian salmon placed on a bed of freshly cooked warrigal greens drizzled with a warm lemon myrtle dressing.

Mmmh, time to cook dinner I think. Where's my red wine?

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

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Cluster Plantings

from Clayton Stokoe

Maleny must be the center of the universe for ride on lawn mowers per capita. Malenyites are out there in their hordes on weekends cutting that 5 acres of grass. I think my neighbour must save it every week for when I get home, so that

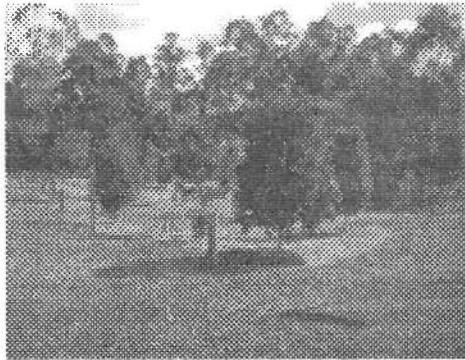
I am sitting on my back verandah in the sun on Saturday morning sipping coffee to the sounds of a lawn mower or brush cutter in its natural habitat. I was thinking of getting in some nesting boxes for them in the hope they would go clucky for a few weeks and give me some peace.

Here's an idea to have your reveg site and keep your lawn mower addiction happy at the same time, in the hope you will fall in love with the reveg alternative over time.

Cluster Plantings: cluster plantings are an excellent way to establish native vegetation in situations where you need to keep cost, labor, maintenance and time to a minimum, but have a desire to retain neatness in a park or garden-like setting.

A cluster planting is a selection of plants placed closely together to create small islands of vegetation. Heavy mulching means low maintenance. Edge mowing is about all that is needed with the occasional spot spraying and re-mulching. The dense planting regime of 1 plant to 1.5 metre spacing gives accelerated growth rates through competition. Plants tend to lean out and away from one another maximizing shade potential, optimizing growth rates and also softening surrounding areas for an additional planting at a later date, appropriate for Revegetation work where those above factors are restrictive.

Here are a few examples of some cluster plantings. You can see they retain the neatness in a garden situation where islands of plants could give a nice meandering feel to your property. Or for reveg, islands like this can be beneficial for future revegetation work through softening the adjacent area so species with frost, wind or sun sensitivity could be planted, without the high labor component of maintaining individual plants. Developing this framework can be extremely beneficial in the longer term.



These BBQ settings at Mary Cairncross Reserve are a brilliant example of what high density planting can achieve. This site is around 5 years old now, totally protecting the picnic area from sun and wind. These sites are extremely low maintenance and achieved through plant density, heavy mulch, and competition.

If you have an interest in these types of low maintenance garden settings call into the Barung nursery where the staff can select appropriate local native species well suited to cluster planting designs.



Barung's new Green Corps team with original team leader, Johanna Karam. Jo has since left for Canberra and we welcome Guy Morgan on board as our new Green Corps supervisor.

S Qld Biodiversity Recovery Conference

The 2001 Southern Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference

will be hosted by Crow's Nest Shire Council from 29 Oct. - 2 Nov. 2001.

Full details including conference program and registration form will be available on www.Cnnet.com.au from mid-May

THE FIRE ANT INVASION!!

Red fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) have been discovered at Wacol, Q'land more than 40km from their initial site. Red fire ants can sting humans & are responsible for numerous fatalities in the US.

Scientists say the ants have used their ability to fly during the mating stage of their lifecycle to move.

Some tips to deter fire ants:

- * fire ants need water daily - fix leaking taps, improve drainage & conserve water
- * some mulch, eg cedar bark, may repel them, and gravel under patios may deter them from nesting. Straw mulch and landscape timbers are ideal for fire ant nests.

websites: <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/3092.html>

<http://fireant.tamu.edu/> (good photos)

<http://www.aqis.gov.au:80/docs/pr/avatqpub2.htm>

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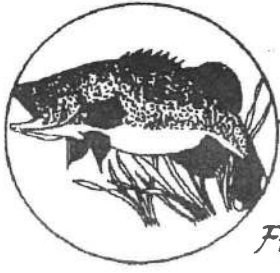


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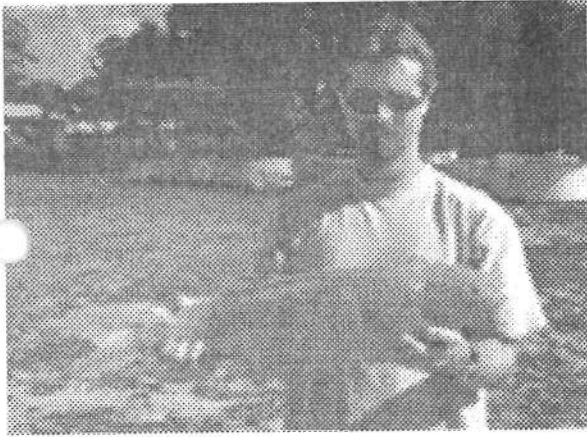
Applications for investment can only be made on the firm's behalf in the course of prospectus 1306023/10/0001 and lodged with ASIC which is available from Australian Ethical.



Mary River Cod
Community Network

Bob Simpson
DPI Fisheries Biologist

*First ever carp caught
in Mary River*



DPI Fisheries officers have caught their first-ever common, or European, carp in the Mary River near Gympie.

The 65-cm-long carp was caught during an electrofishing survey upstream from Widgee Crossing during May.

Bob Simpson, DPI Fisheries Biologist at the Southern Fisheries Centre at Deception Bay, said that carp have caused huge problems in the Murray-Darling River system, and have also become established in the Logan River south of Brisbane.

"The last thing we want is for them to get a foothold in the Mary River. We're hopeful that this was just a one-off release from someone's garden pond or dam, but we can't be sure," he said.

Carp are a declared noxious fish in Queensland. It is an offence to possess, rear, sell or buy carp, and any caught should not be returned to the water. Anyone caught breaking the law can be fined up to \$150,000.

Carp can be identified by the two barbels (whiskers) on either corner of their upper lip. They have a forked tail, a single dorsal fin and large scales.

Mr Simpson said the carp caught in the Mary River was a 'Koi' variety. Koi carp have been selectively bred for their bright colouration, and are usually recognisable by bright orange, yellow, black and white markings and blotches.

"People seem to think that Koi carp are less of a problem for the environment than common carp, but they are the same fish. If a batch of Koi carp were to escape into the wild and breed, the population would quickly revert to the plain colours of the common carp," he said.

Other surveys by DPI Fisheries have so far failed to turn up any more carp in the Mary River. If anybody does catch one, they should contact the DPI's Exotic Pest Fish Officer, Rachel Mackenzie, on (07) 3239 0727.

Further information: Bob Simpson, Fisheries Biologist on (07) 3817 9590 or Glenis Ayling, QFS Media Coordinator on (07) 3224 7757

A Farmer's Delight

from Phillip Trendall
Mary River Cod Habitat Extension Officer
ph 5482 4251

John Cutmore has lived on Obi Obi Creek in the Mary River Catchment for most of his life. He grew up in a time when Mary River Cod were plentiful and the deep hole near his property produced many a big fish. "The last cod I remember seeing was a beauty. It must have been at least 18 kg (40 lb)," he told me. "Unfortunately this was about 46 years ago." John has not seen or heard of Mary River Cod in the lower section of Obi Obi Creek since then.

This was until friends came to stay at the farm around Easter time. While fishing down in the normal pool, John was excitedly shocked by their catch: "It was a Mary River Cod - I couldn't believe it," he said. "The cod was about 35-40 cm long and probably weighed about 2kg. We even forgot to get a photograph because we were so keen to get it back in the water safely, but at least it's good to see them back in the area. I certainly don't think I would have been able to wait another 40 years!"

Unfortunately I could not tell John was if it was a wild cod or one of the 1998 re-stocking fingerlings. In June 2000, the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries located 1998 fingerlings that were already 32cm. The pool in which John was fishing has also been re-stocked since 1998 and so it was difficult to say where it came from. All I can say is that the catch was good news and hopefully more are in the system.

Obi Obi Creek starts near Maleny in the upper Mary River catchment (Lake Baroon catchment) and joins the Mary River near Kenilworth. For four km downstream of the Lake Baroon wall, the creek is declared Mary River Cod habitat due to the resident cod population surviving in the rugged scenic pools deep within the gorge.

Fishing is now not permitted except on the rare occasion when Department of Primary Industries Fisheries officers have needed to collect broodstock from the area.

Time to get Dirty

Over the last few weeks, on-ground cod habitat restoration activities have begun on three important WWF sites.

The first site is on Six-Mile Creek in Cooran. Noosa Landcare and Noosa Shire Council have already started weed control and revegetation work along this section at the Yellowbelly Hole. Downstream, the Cooran Riders Club and the Cooran Recreation Club have also started to revegetate their creek bank. WWF is now supporting the efforts of the Cooran Recreation Club in joining these sites up through further weed removal and revegetation. After these sites are linked there is also the potential for extension of the works from each end.

One of the priority project sites is at Tinana Creek off Wilsons Pocket Road. Works so far have included removal of Cats Claw Creeper and the planting of 1,000 trees. Another 1,000 trees will extend this revegetation work in September to make a 40-meter buffer along most of the riparian zone. These will then be fenced off by the landholder so if they can have cattle in the adjoining area if desired.

One of the bigger WWF projects is along the Mary River near Dagun. This dairy property has about 3 km of river frontage, with known cod holes and good in-stream habitat in the particular reach. The landholder has already put in place a dairy effluent recycling pit and will provide off-stream watering for his cows through the WWF Cod Project. This will also mean upgrading fencing so that cattle need not go onto the riverbank. Shade trees will need to be planted around the few small dams on the property which the farmer would prefer to be fenced off. The landholder understands that riverbank weed control will be a major priority and so a maintenance schedule will be developed.

MANAGING YOUR NATIVE FOREST FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND WILDLIFE

from Laurie Capill

Despite continuing high levels of land clearing in Queensland, many districts - including the Blackall Range and Mary Valley landholdings - include significant areas of native forest which are important for nature conservation and land protection. Correctly managed, these forest stands can potentially yield a regular sustainable supply of quality timber for both on-farm and market purposes.

In most cases, however, a lack of appreciation or application of basic forest management principles has seen the condition and productive capacity of these forests decline. The sad reality is that, once a forest is seen as an economic cost to the landholder rather than a benefit, the land is in danger of being cleared for what is perceived to be a 'better' use.

The good news is that even severely run-down or degraded native forests, with modest investment of effort by the owner over a relatively short time, can be brought back into an economically productive and ecologically sound condition. At this time of upheaval in the dairy industry, the importance of enterprise diversification as a sound risk management strategy for all farming properties is apparent. Sustainable native forest management is one diversification option immediately available to a large number of rural landholders.

The fundamental principles of sustainable forest management are not difficult to understand, being the same principles that beef / dairy farmers apply to livestock production systems:

- * you must cull to prevent over-stocking; and
- * cull the worst and keep the best.

Let's look a little more closely at how these two principles can be transferred from livestock to tree-stock.

Overstocking

Every farmer knows that you cannot keep every calf born into a herd. A property may be able to support 100 young calves, but as they grow they will increasingly consume more of the pasture resources until the land is overstocked. At this stage average liveweight gains will stall and the animals will become sick with starvation and eventually die.

A hectare of regenerating forest land can easily carry up to 10 000 young seedlings or suckers. In plantations it is common to plant at 1100 stems per hectare (ie about 3m average spacing). However, as the trees grow, they begin to compete for available light, soil moisture and nutrients. Without thinning, the growth rate of the whole stand of young trees can stagnate, with increasing susceptibility to insect attack and disease.

Intense natural regeneration typically follows selective forest harvesting events, such as those carried out by farmers who have used their forests as a source of fencing, construction and sawlogs. In nature, the resulting dense sapling stands would be thinned by intense fires which are virtually inevitable in the light of the high fuel loads. In farming situations, such fire is often managed and not intense enough to kill fire-resistant eucalypt trees. Without active thinning, successive selective harvests will result in the forest being dominated by virtually worthless juvenile trees. Growth rates in such 'locked up' stands of eucalypts and brush box can decline to the extent that individual stems many decades old may still only be 10-20cm diameter.

A useful rule of thumb that can be applied in our eucalypt

forests is to thin stands so that the average spacing between trees is at least 20 times the breast-height diameter of the average tree. That is, to continue active growth, a stand of trees averaging 25cm diameter should have an average spacing of at least 5m (say 6m, to allow room for growth to 30cm).

The following table and graph illustrate the intensity of thinning that might be appropriate in a eucalypt forest made up of a uniform mix of size classes, but initially overstocked. Note the majority of the removals will be in the smaller size-classes, thereby enabling the remaining stems to grow into the larger size classes. This growth increment would be harvestable within 10-20 years - necessary for the stand not to again become overstocked.

Thinnings resulting from stand spacing treatments typically include a large proportion of small-dimension roundwood, suitable for round and split posts and rails - although the relatively high proportion of non-durable sapwood in these pieces means that preservation treatment is desirable.

Culling

Every farmer knows that a herd comprises poorer and better animals. When selling stock to regulate carrying capacity, it makes sense to cull the poorer animals and keep the best as part of a herd improvement strategy. If a grazier were to regularly send his best breeders and stud bulls to market because these will fetch the highest price, his herd will be worthless before long.

This strategy has unfortunately been pursued for decades by many private native forest owners. Encouraged by local sawmills and timber buyers, the largest (that is, the oldest and/or fastest growing) trees and those with the best form (reflecting genetic quality and freedom from past physical damage) have been the ones selectively extracted from native forest stands over the decades. This has inevitably led to private forest stands being dominated by trees with slow growth rates, poor genetic quality and those which have been physically damaged.

Forest owners can rectify this situation by applying a stand improvement treatment targeting poorly formed, damaged, and unhealthy trees and those lacking vigour (assessed by monitoring of annual diameter growth rates and the condition of the crown). This should be conducted in conjunction with the espacement thinning discussed earlier.

Although this treatment will yield only small quantities of higher value timber products, recent trials by the Qld Forest Research Institute have shown that culled product sales can significantly off-set the costs of stand improvement treatment, if not return a net profit. The most important outcome, however, is that it can set the stand on track to produce regular yields of increasingly higher quality products on a regular 5 or 10 year cycle.

Biodiversity considerations

A native forest can provide homes and habitats for a huge range of plants, animals and birds. The habitat value is maximised where the forest comprises a full range of tree and understorey species representative of that forest type, and trees of all ages and sizes. Care should be taken to maintain a balance between the various species of timber, as preferential harvesting

cont'd on page 14

If you are growing trees for Farm Forestry in this region please get in touch with Mim at Barung - ph 5494 3151.

The Barung Farm Forestry Sub-committee wants to develop a data-base of local growers, so that we can keep you up-to-date with our farm forestry education program and activities.

FARMCARE – LANDCARE IN HORTICULTURE in SEQ & the Philippines

from John Muir,

DPI Horticultural Research Station, Nambour
Ph: 5444 9611 / 0418 158 623

EMS - Environmental Management Systems - their future and you?

In the last QFVG Newsletter you may have read Shauna Dewhurst's (ex-Environment Manager with Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers) article about the statewide grower meetings held last spring to determine where industry should proceed on the environmental front. These meetings were in addition to an Enviro Workshop attended by growers and environmental representatives.

The findings are outlined below with implications for growers and the wider community. The recent North Queensland case on flying fox control measures and public concerns which resulted in a court case, is indeed a case in point. Even though the findings were in the grower's favour, it is certainly a sign of the times that "things they are a changing."

In 1998 QFVG published the Horticultural Codes of Best Management Practice booklet called 'FARMCARE', which included a self-check questionnaire on "How do you rank?" My resulting Farmcare - Landcare in Horticulture project works with grower groups who are already implementing components of the Farmcare guidelines, and to spread the good word wider.

A new component of the project, which has arisen as a result of the wide grower consultation meetings conducted by both QFVG and myself, concurred that Environmental Management Systems (EMS), was one path for growers, groups and industries to go down in the future. It is seen as the best way for industry to address the many and varied 'sustainability' issues that are affecting them in both day-to-day and longer-term activities on-farm.

With such an EMS system, there are also potential benefits for growers and community as a whole in relation to:

- * efficiency in production increases e.g. water and fertiliser use;
- * the potential of eco labels (to meet increasing market demands for more 'organic-type' sustainable farming products);
- * right to farm issues addressed and strengthened;
- * quality assured and accredited production systems developed by growers;
- * greater market and community acceptance on and off farm;
- * varying levels of auditing and assurances available, depending on market requirements; and
- * wholefarm property management considerations include biodiversity, riparian corridors, windbreaks, shelterbelts etc.

These are just some of the possible benefits and outcomes for producers and consumers. Basically this 'Triple Bottom Line' accounting approach to farming systems and food production, considers sustainability of the environment, community and economy as equally important.

I am keen to work with anyone else interested in developing some of these on-farm benchmark indicators, sustainable farming practices and environmental recording management systems.

The EMS is a process, not a prescriptive method for how

to farm! That will be up to the individual growers and grower groups to develop and determine for their particular farm situations. Hence my interest to work with growers or groups in developing these components.

Sustainability is a journey, not a destination, and I truly believe that this Farmcare project initiative is another step on the journey.

If any growers or grower groups are interested in being involved in this project, contact me as above or via Barung.

TREE TALK

by Tony Wootton,
Tree Surgeon

Hello again tree people, and let me thank and congratulate all the workers, organisers and volunteers who made the Timber Expo such a success.

The artisans' display in the pavilion affected me as would a walk through a fine art gallery, the portable mills revealed the incredible beauty that is held within our local trees, and the historical displays demonstrated what a crucial role trees have played in the "development" of this area.

In this article I would like to address the fairly distressing matter of root damage to trees and shrubs. I am continually being called out to assess trees that are obviously declining in health due to damage to their roots and/or changes in the soil environment where their roots exist. What is particularly frustrating is that virtually all of these situations involving failing trees could have been avoided.

I must stress that anyone contemplating any building, particularly earthworks, that is likely to impact on or be affected by the surrounding vegetation would be foolish not to consult an arborist before finalising plans or designs, let alone commencing work. Generally speaking engineers, draughtsmen, builders and heavy machinery operators do not have a full understanding of trees and tree needs, and in many cases have no regard for them at all.

The small cost of consulting an arborist initially could save someone thousands of dollars. An example is when a tree treated improperly during construction work begins to decline several years later, needs to be removed due to its close proximity to now existing buildings. This all happens because the tree's needs were not considered at the planning stage.

Up to a point, if sound tree care practices are adhered to then work can be carried out near trees. Trees can then be incorporated into designs, and as long as tolerances to such things as root pruning are understood, we can all benefit from a more complete planning process.

So until next time I urge you all, whenever you have the time, to touch trees and think about trees.



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Water Quality Education Project by Mandy Botterell, Education Officer

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group 'Water Quality Education Project' is now well and truly underway. I have been busy running around the catchment doing some macro-invertebrate sampling and measuring, and performing workshops/presentations with school and community groups, setting up displays at various locations, as well as organising various other events to help raise awareness of our catchment. We have begun to lay the foundations for some very exciting projects to take place (stay posted for details) which will contribute significantly to improved water quality within our creeks, but more importantly, to the health of our catchment as a whole.

Some coming events that you could get involved in are:

- * World Environment Day Celebration "Catchment Crawl", June 22. Jump aboard the Lake Baroon 'Mystery Tour' and discover your catchment - bookings essential.
- * "Know what's in your creek?!" Saturday, June 30. A workshop to show you how to find out if your creek is healthy and what lives there to let you know - bookings essential
- * Sub-Catchment BBQ's and Get Togethers- throughout the catchment (watch this newsletter and the Range News for dates and venues for your local sub-catchment get together).

If you would like more information about any of these activities or about the Water Quality Education Project, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0416 294 357, or ring the office on 5494 3775.

Dairy farm improvements helping our catchments by Ray Daley

In late 1999, work began on the Daley's Maleny dairy farm in the form of improvements to the land, which would not only benefit the Daley's, but would also help to improve the water quality within the upper reaches of the Obi Obi Creek. The following is a summary of activities carried out on the Daley's property from November 1999, until May 2001:

- * Land preparation was undertaken for the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group to assist the Daley's in the planting of 160 trees;
- * A concrete lane-way, approximately 120m long, was constructed for the dairy cows to have easy access from the dairy to the day paddock;
- * Assistance for fencing from the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group amounted to \$4,557 (also with the assistance of a Green-Corp team) and enabled the cows to be directed along the cement track and away from any water bodies. These improvements have completely eliminated the soil erosion which was affecting dams on the property and eventually the Obi Obi Creek.
- * Funding from the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and the Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee allowed for two

cattle crossings (gravelled and cemented), fencing of two dams, construction of off-stream watering facilities, and the planting of a further 550 trees to be completed.

The Daley's would like to gratefully acknowledge the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group for the work done (enabled through the funding obtained from the Caloundra-Maroochy Water Supply Board and the Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee), and Barung Landcare for their supply of trees.

What's Your Creek? Obi Obi Creek: the 'Dilkusha Section' by Nick & Christy Willis



The creek that we live and play on is the Obi Obi Creek, where it runs through the Dilkusha community, a few kilometres upstream from where the creek meets Baroon Pocket Dam.

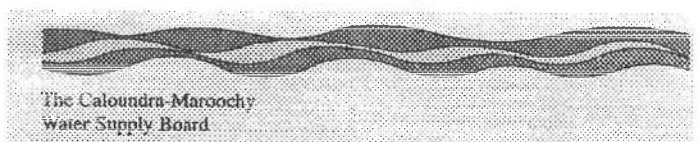
This section of Obi contains some of the best remnant rain-forest I have seen on the range. It also contains a large breeding colony of the recently discovered Australian Freshwater Crayfish (*Eustacus urospinosus*), as well as a number of rare and endangered plant species.

A few years back the members of the Dilkusha community had over 40 acres gazetted by parliament as a protected flora and fauna reserve, effectively preserving it forever. All this combined with ongoing revegetation of the area make this one of the most spectacular sections of the Obi I have seen. HOORAH!!!

Nick, Christy, baby Jairah and I explored the water in this section of the Obi to discover the health of the creek by checking out the 'bugs' living in it. A very rushed search prevented us from gathering information on the taxa richness, however, we did find macro-invertebrates species that are very sensitive to alterations in the state of the water.

We saw mayfly larva, freshwater shrimp, caddisfly larva, water mites, water boatman, beetles, numerous true water bugs, non-biting midge larva, and spiders - not a bad community of bugs. We will do a more thorough search at a later date to generate some data on the pollution sensitivity and taxa richness of the creek - Mandy Botterell, Education Officer

'What's Your Creek?' will be a regular feature of this page, so if you would like to tell us about your backyard creek (we'll also come out and show you how to check out your backyard 'bugs') please contact me on 0416 294 357, the office on 5494 3775, or e-mail me at lbccg@telstra.easymail.com



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Barung Volunteer Profile

*Rod Hyde
Pumpkins versus cobbler's pegs*

Rod - who belongs to the Over 50's Club who meet regularly at the potting bench - has shown great initiative at Barung. One of Rod's main projects has been to transform the composting pile of reject pot soil into a vegetable garden.

Not only has Rod provided staff and other volunteers with enough pumpkins and parsley for the winter, but he has discovered a new method of controlling cobbler's pegs! Smother them with pumpkin vines!

So if you are wondering why Russell is asking for better blocks - it is because they're edging the vegie garden and sprouting herbs!

Rod has taken ownership of the many oxhorns and staghorns round the building, bringing in compost to revive them and even coming in on weekends to water on the hottest of summer days.

Thanks for your energy, time and great contribution to Barung Rod.

Come back soon Anni

Anni Philp, Barung's volunteer volunteer Coordinator for the past 18 months, has taken a break for private reasons.

Anni has put in many hours over that time preparing a Draft Barung Volunteer Manual, supervising volunteers in the paddock and sharing with us all her experience of volunteering.

We all send you our love Anni and hope that your cheery face will be back at Barung soon.



LETTERS

Dear Lin

The town was jumping - we could not fill in your survey as we weren't open for business. One couldn't find a parking space - the Expo was a huge success.

The atmosphere in town was beaut, all food houses, tourist businesses etc. were crowded.
Well done!

Kind regards
Warwick Mills
Maleny Travelworld

Dear Barung

Your organisation recently became "Friends of Wilvos" and we welcome your support. As you are aware we are a volunteer organisation providing a 24 hour hotline to the community for wildlife emergencies, rescue and advice.

Until recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manned our hotline during normal working hours 9am - 5pm Mon - Fri. The callers are referred to carers from a list of volunteers in that area. The EPA no longer wish to continue this arrangement. Currently we do not have the volunteers available to fulfil this role and are seeking help from other organisations.

If you have the capacity and volunteer base available, would it be possible for your organisation to assist us in manning the hotline during working hours? Our hotline number would be diverted to a number in your office or that of a volunteer at home, who would give the caller the names of 3 Wilvos to contact in that area. They would not be required to attend to a rescue, simply to give out our contact numbers. Training and instruction manual will be provided to volunteers.

We are starting a phased in approach as the EPA realise that it is a difficult task to organise. In April we covered 2 days, in May 3 days and so on. From June on we need some new recruits. If you would consider perhaps or even 1/2 a day per week it would help us enormously.

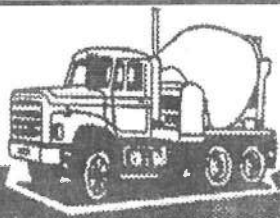
We look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely
Sylvia Hood
Secretary

Wildlife Volunteers Rescue Association

From the Editor: Please ring Sylvia on (07) 5441 6200 if you could spare some time on a regular basis each week for this worthy cause to help save our wildlife!

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MANAGING YOUR NATIVE FOREST FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND WILDLIFE

cont'd from page 10

of more valuable timber species can lead to a predominance of the less valuable over time.

A number of the largest, oldest trees that typically contain many hollows suitable for nesting should be retained when marking the stand for thinning, and provision made for their eventual replacement. It is also desirable to leave felled logs to decompose on the forest floor, creating important fauna habitats.

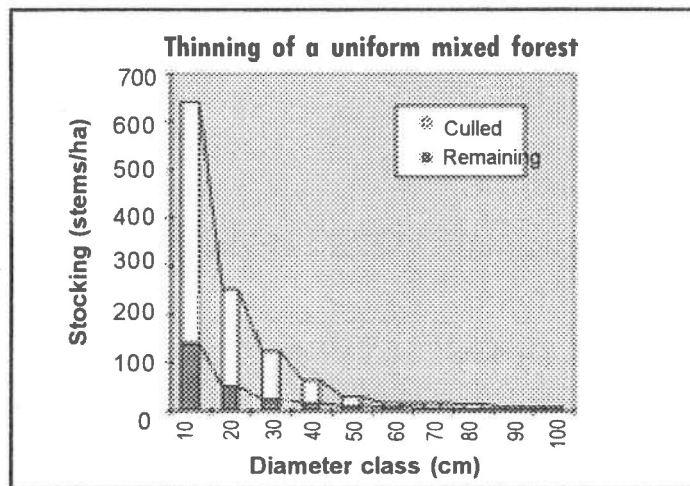
Excluding livestock or only lightly or periodically grazing the forest understorey is also important for maintaining biodiversity, as well as protecting the quality of new regrowth.

Allowing for biodiversity will require foregoing some amount of forest production. However, maintaining the ecological values is not only personally rewarding, but also increases the resilience of the forest to pests and diseases. For example, recent studies show that Rose Gum is much more susceptible to wood borer when grown in a plantation situation than in a more biodiverse native forest situation.

Further information

Several publications are available for farmers interested in the sustainable management of native forest stands. The growing demand for information is being met by the establishment of demonstration trials and field days.

If you want to know more, contact Barung's Farm Forestry Subcommittee. We are planning a seminar day in the near future for dairy farmers and others who are looking at farm forestry (plantation and native forest) as a diversification option.



Diameter class	Initial stocking	Number removed stems	Final stocking	Approx final spacing (m)
5 - 15	500	360	140	6
15 - 25	200	150	50	10
25 - 35	100	75	25	14
35 - 45	50	35	15	18
45 - 55	20	10	10	22
55 - 65	10	3	7	26
65 - 75	10	4	6	30
75 - 85	10	6	4	34
85 - 98	5	2	3	38
95 - 105	5	2	3	42
Stand averages	910	647	263	6.2

Rain, hail or shine, you can't keep farm foresters away from trees - Field Day



BARUNG TREE GROWERS GROUP

from Kerry McIntyre

This group consists of about 10 people representing five properties. We are a selfhelp group, focussing on practical, hands on management techniques for growing mainly native trees, learning from others' experience. We share the following:

1. we are all landowners with some experience in growing trees;
2. we do not expect direct income from the trees planted;
3. we hope the trees we've planted will value add to our properties, as well as providing windbreaks and improved aesthetic value.

We meet monthly, usually on site, to discuss management strategies e.g. species selection, weed control (including herbicide selection and use), pruning, machinery and other tools required.

The main requirements to join the group are an interest and some experience in growing trees; owning a property (any size) on which trees (any number) have been planted; and perhaps most importantly, having a broad and flexible mind (environmentalists should read no further), and a sense of humour.

We would like a few more members who share our common interests. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Kerry McIntyre on 5494 2404, email mcintyre@sun.big.net.au.



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WEED OF THE MONTH

from Linda Ivezić

HIMALAYAN ASH

Fraxinus griffithii

Fraxinus griffithii grows extensively on the Range and is showing competitive reproductive capabilities to our prolific seeder, the infamous privet. It is quickly emerging as an environmental weed.

I wasn't able to find any written information on "Himalayan Ash" as a woody weed but there have been many local anecdotes of its nuisance value.

Fraxinus griffithii was recommended on the Range over the past 8-10 years for wind breaks and screens. Rapid growth makes it an effective barrier, with branches hanging low to the ground and remaining bushy all year round. Information was easy to find on this small tree as a useful and attractive landscaping tree "suitable to most gardens". Unfortunately, masses of winged seeds form after flowering and germinate quickly, forming thick seedling carpets around the parent trees. These are thicker than privet seedlings (if you can believe that!)

One landholder removed three Himalayan Ash trees almost five years ago and is still pulling out seedlings both near to where the parent trees were and hundreds of metres away on the creekbank.

Fraxinus griffithii originates from China, Malaysia and the Philippines. It is of the *Oleaceae* genus, otherwise known as 'Ash' - "an extensive genus of hardy, fast-growing trees which thrive in almost any soil".

Growing to a height of 6m, with a spread of 3m, it flowers in autumn with sprays of small cream flowers on upright panicles giving it a misty look, followed by masses of winged seeds. It has attractive bright glossy green divided leaves, and is evergreen with a dense, rounded crown. It likes both sun and semi-shade, prefers enriched soil, likes to be well-watered and is hardy.

"What to plant where in Brisbane and the coasts" recommends it not be planted on the fringes of rainforest where seeds might germinate, but Maleny's experience is better not plant it at all!

Suggested local native alternative species, fast growing and suitable as windbreaks, are Lillypilly - *syzygium spp.*, *acmena spp.*, Silky Myrtle - *Decaspermum humille*, *Callicoma serratifolia* and Plum myrtle - *Pilidiostigma glabrum*. All of these species are generally available at Barung's nursery.

References: What to plant where in Brisbane and the coasts, compiled by Jo Hirschfeld

WINTER SEEDERS

cont'd from p 16

allow them to lie dormant in the soil until warmer conditions return and growth is possible. This is when the investment of developing a seed that can survive the winter pays off. These seeds are often the first to germinate when warm conditions return and there is little competition in the field (or at least the forest).

Two winter seeders to keep an eye out for, although they will not germinate overnight, are:

1. *Acmena ingens* - Red apple; these beautiful fast growing trees are dropping their large red fruit at the moment and they are well worth the trouble of growing as they are a truly outstanding, and as I said, fast growing tree. The fruit are about 20-30mm in diameter, so easy to spot and collect from below the tree where they fall. Sow the whole fruit in a good potting compost. However they do benefit from soaking in water for at least a fortnight to drown any grubs that may be present.

Personally I allow the fruit to sit in a bucket until they have gone a bit mushy (some people just never grow up) and then give them a good stir and rinse until the fruit is removed and then sow.

While collecting fruit along Stanley River Road two years ago I was fortunate enough to see several of the very rare Coxens Fig Parrots feeding on the fruit. Unfortunately this particular tree was cut down for road widening. This in itself is a good reason to plant these beautiful trees, as they are a source of winter food for a bird on the verge of extinction.

2. *Melia azederach* - White Cedar; this is a much underrated tree from our local forests. Incredibly quick to establish and grow, white cedars provide a beautiful timber (for those in it for the long run), with small but very attractive flowers and a bird attracting fruit, but wait there's more....

Many people are put off white cedars because of their deciduous nature and the fact that they often are stripped by caterpillars just before losing their leaves in autumn. Their deciduous nature I actually see as a benefit - they are perfect for the north side of a house, providing summer shade and yet allowing winter sun in.

They are also great on a reveg site providing quick cover (up to 4m in the first year) in the heat of summer and yet allowing light onto their neighbours during winter.

White cedar is in fruit at the moment and the masses of yellow fruit are easy to see on the bare branches. The yellow fruit consist of a fleshy layer surrounding a hard stone containing several small seeds. The hard stone protects the seed until warmer conditions return, and they are often one of the first locals to sprout on a disturbed site in spring.

More Seed to Collect in the next few months:

Acmena hemilampera - Blush satinash

Acmena smithii - Creek lillypilly

Alpinia coerulea - Ginger

Cryptocarya erythroxylon - Pidgeonberry ash

Cryptocarya obovata - Pepper berry

Elaeocarpus reticulatus - Blueberry ash

Eupomatia laurina - Bollwarra

Neolitsea dealbatta - White bolly gum

Olea paniculata - Native olive

Pilidiostigma glabrum - Plum myrtle

Pilidiostigma rhytispermum - Small leaf plum myrtle

Pittosporum revolutum - Hairy pittosporum



WEEDBUSTERS
8-10AM
- THE FIRST SAT
OF EACH MONTH

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to bust weeds**

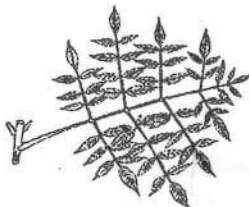
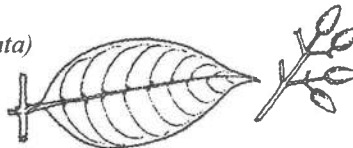
**Bring your own gloves and your
favourite weeding tools for a most
satisfying social experience.**

Many seed hit the ground in summer and are putting down roots within a matter of days. Those warm balmy tropical days and nights are perfect for vegetative growth and seeds tend to establish themselves very quickly. Conditions for growth are at their best in spring and summer with the rainforest seed that fall then wasting no time in their race for survival Sorry - I just drifted off for a second there, thinking about warm balmy tropical days and nights as I huddle over my keyboard on a cool autumn night!!!

Species like *Guioa semiglauca*, *Harpullia pendula*, and *Pennantia cunninghamii* are classic summer seeders, germinating extroverts so to speak. They have the sorts of seed that cannot wait to get out of their skins the moment they hit the ground so they can

WINTER SEEDERS
the patient ones
(or seed to collect in June - July)
 by Spencer Shaw

Native olive
(Olea paniculata)



White cedar
(Melia azederach)

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

race for the sky!!!

Their winter cousins can be somewhat on the shy side however, and remain introverts until the warmth of spring tempts them to poke out a root node and make their break for the light.

In winter temperatures drop and growth conditions for seedlings become less than favourable. Many seedlings that have sprouted during the warmer months and have not become sufficiently established may die off. If these seedlings are struggling, how could seed falling in winter survive if it were to germinate?

The answer is often to postpone germination for the winter seeders. Many have growth inhibitors - ei chemical such as *Acmena* fruit, or mechanical such as *Melia* seed coats that

cont'd page 15

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Barung Landcare...



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