

Walkers Creek Revegetation Project

No - it not complete devastation it's actually the removal of weeds. The area has been sown with Japanese Millet and all we need is for just a little rain !!! to cover up all that bare soil.

As many people may have read in the Range News we intend to plant a lot of trees in this area. Firstly, along the creek bank we want to try and set up a demonstration site of the vegetation which would have been there originally. Then up on



the top slope we want to put in a commercial cabinet timber plot for future generations. When the wet season gets here we will start planting and will need all the help we can get, so keep an eye out in the Range News for planting dates.

A further note on Walkers Creek is that a few of our members from further up the creek are looking at clearing weeds from their properties to also

replant with local species. We have managed to get some close up aerial photos of all of Walkers Creek so if you are interested in doing anything on your land please

come in and check out the photos. I know that some of our members up the creek have already started planting, so we would love to identify who is doing what and at what stage they are up to. Apparently Walkers Creek is one of the most heavily polluted in the area. Maybe we can now start to have an effect on its Water Quality. For more information please ring 943151.

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**WE WELCOME ARTICLES FOR
THIS NEWSLETTER...**

**CLOSING DATE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

for the next issue is

FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER

**BARUNG LANDCARE
ASSOCIATION INC.**

17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny
Qld. 4552

Phone: 074 943 151

Fax: 074 999 443

Nursery Now Open 5 days a week

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Worm Turns

When the CSIRO did its monumental soils research in Fraser Island's sister sandmass, Cooloola, during the late 70s and early 80s, scientists were surprised and excited to discover an astonishing array of earthworms.

THE WORMS OF THE SAND MASSES

The scientists were excited because all but one of the species discovered were new to science. Of the five genera, one genus, (*Pheretimoides*) is endemic to the sandmasses of south-east Queensland. One of the more spectacular species, the deep-burrowing earthworm (*Digaster keastii*), attains a length of more than 80cm. Other earthworms parallel the acid frog fauna in being adapted to the low pH levels on localized peaty habitats occurring in the sandmasses.

The presence of earthworms in sand *podzols* is in itself a most unusual phenomenon, possibly unique. Scientists suspect that many of the species found at Cooloola are the product of localized evolution and are characterised by very limited distributions and small population sizes. As such they may be endangered even by small scale interference.

EARTHWORM INVADERS

With such impressive data the researchers had assumed that the earthworms of the Great Sandy Region would be properly protected, particularly given the protected area status of Fraser Island and Cooloola. No such luck! Even before the Management Plan for the Great Sandy Region has been finalised, the DEH has opened the door to the prospect of serious invasion by earthworms. Elsewhere in Australia, native earthworms have been largely displaced in the local environment by exotic earthworms from South America. For example, one NMPWS researcher recently searched the ground in the Eubanagee Swamp and the Lake Eacham National Parks to establish what earthworms were there and was alarmed to discover that the only earthworms to be found were the fleshy garden type worms of the Argentinian, and Brazilian types. This is

more alarming because both parks are part of the Queensland Wet Tropics World Heritage area. They now monopolise most Australian gardens. It is alarming that they may have displaced all indigenous earthworms in at least two World Heritage national parks.

Despite the thought that it would be difficult for alien earthworms to reach Fraser Island, it isn't as hard as one would think. While gravel for construction and road bases have been checked in some cases for the foot rot fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamoni*, there were no checks for earthworms which may be hitchhiking into the loads. Another obvious means of hitchhiking is in pot-plants and garden propagation material. Currently the DEH has no policy nor controls on the taking of plants in any form to Fraser Island and already there have been many introductions. On recent visits, we have seen many introductions at Dilli Billage and at the Thoorgine Educational and Cultural Centre. There is also the risk of weed introductions such as more "Singapore Daisies".

SO MUCH COMPOST

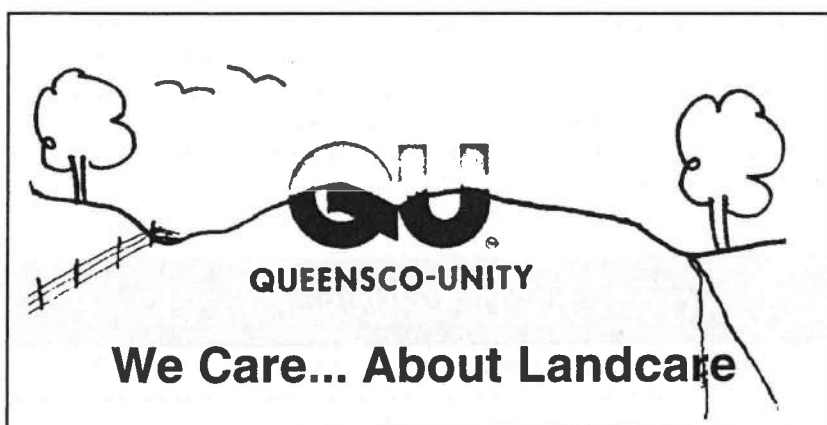
The most alarming risk of introductions has arisen with the approval of a new type of composting toilet to Fraser Island which relies on European earthworms to digest the faecal material. The DEH gave approval for these "Downmus" toilets to be established on Fraser Island without a full understanding of the specialised nature of

the earthworm fauna of Fraser Island, nor any idea of the impact which a possible escape of these earthworms into the natural environment could pose.

FIDO is not satisfied with assurances that the earthworms would be sealed in containers and (hopefully) have no chance to escape into the environment. It is too late to close the door when the horse (or earthworm) has bolted. A similar apprehension struck us when we read a media report that the ever posturing environmentally friendly Kingfisher Resort was setting up a worm farm to digest all organic garbage generated at the resort. If this "worm farm" had been located on Fraser Island the results would have been devastating. Mercifully the worm farm is at the Hervey Bay rubbish tip. Considering the DEH's lack of appreciation of the significance of Fraser Island's earthworms, their strong support for the Kingfisher Resort, FIDO would not have been surprised if they had also sanctioned a worm farm on Fraser Island.

NO MORE pOTS PLEASE

The Nursery has been overwhelmed by pots - thanks to all who kindly donated them. However - what we really need now are tubes. Overwhelm us!



Threatened Species of Maleny & Environs: Coxen's Fig Parrot

In an earlier issue of the Barung newsletter, the critically endangered Mary River Cod was featured. Another species endemic to this area that has been listed as "critically endangered" (in 1992)

So what is this elusive bird? It is a small, plump, inconspicuous, green parrot with a very short tail. It depends for its food on fruiting native trees in sub-tropical rainforest, particularly Moreton Bay Figs.



is Coxen's Fig Parrot (*Cyclopsitta coxeni*). This status is assigned to species of plants or animals for which it has been estimated that there is a fifty percent chance that they will disappear from the wild within the next five years.

We know that the cod is still with us - recent sightings confirm that it is still found in some of the cleaner and less biologically disturbed tributaries of the Mary, but it may already be too late for the fig parrot. An intensive search in south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales for the last 12 months has failed to produce one positive sighting. The search goes on.

Once, Coxen's Fig Parrot was numerous in such forests between the Mary and Richmond Rivers but its numbers have declined over the years as sub-tropical lowland rainforest in this region has been cleared for agriculture and urban development. Now, the fig parrot is all but extinct.

An intensive search is on and members of the public have been asked to co-operate. Coxen's Fig Parrots feed in fruiting figs in small patches of rainforest. They do not like to fly in the open, so single isolated trees near houses or in the middle of paddocks are not likely to attract them. A group of fig parrots will spend a couple of days in one



tree before flying on to another. They are very inconspicuous, being about the same shape, size and colour as a Moreton Bay Fig leaf. They even have a cunning yellow stripe down the edge of the wing which resembles the yellow mid-vein of the fig leaf. The bird is best detected by its soft "tsst-tsst" call or by the noise of falling particles of discarded fruit.

If you are interested in finding out more about this bird and the search for it, drop into the Threatened Species Network office at the Barung Landcare centre and pick up a brochure.

TEMPORARY PART-TIME CO-ORDINATOR

Barung Landcare require a part time co-ordinator. This is a 6-12 month position, 3 days a week. Applicants must be prepared to attend 2-3 night meetings per month.

Applicants must have land management experience or qualifications and good organisational and communication skills.

Please apply in writing with your CV, to:

BARUNG LANDCARE
17 Bicentenary Lane
Maleny 4552

AUSTRALIAN NETWORK FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

Australia's disappearing plants

Since 1770, nearly 100 species of Australian plants have become extinct and almost 1000 are considered to be in danger of extinction.

Only about half of Australia's threatened plant species are protected in national parks or reserves and less than 15% of these are adequately protected.

We're working hard to save plants from destruction

Australian plants are threatened by our increasing need for space and natural resources. The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) has established an Australia-wide endangered flora collection at botanic gardens and other places. This will enable researchers to study the ecological and horticultural requirements of endangered plants and to increase their numbers.

The ANPC promotes plant conservation and organises training workshops. Our regular newsletter *Danthonia* publishes information on the management of endangered plants.

The ANPC also encourages horticulturists, botanists and land managers to communicate and cooperate in researching the ecological and horticultural needs of rare and threatened plants, and to contribute this information to a management plan for each species.

We want to hear from you

The ANPC is advised in its conservation activities by experts from science, business and community groups.



Fontainea oraria

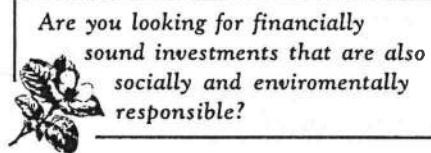
Members include botanic gardens, industry and non-government organisations, scientist and concerned individuals from Australia and the surrounding region.

The ANPC welcomes you as a member and supporter. The Network relies on contributions to enable it to coordinate efforts to save Australia's threatened plants.

**For more information
Contact the Australian Network
for Plant Conservation
GPO Box 1777
Canberra
ACT 2601
Phone (06) 2509509
Fax (06) 2509528**



28 Maple Street, Maleny
Queensland 4552



The Maleny and District Community Credit Union is committed to acting in ways which are:

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Thursday Volunteers!

Barung now has a fabulous group of Tuesday volunteers - but we'd love to see some Thursday people - come along and join the fun - potting, weeding, talking...

DATE CLAIMERS:

- 18 Oct (Mon): Barung Enterprise Arm meeting. 6pm at Barung.
- 20 Oct (Thur): "Sustainable Use and Management of Queensland's Natural Resources". Nambour Civic Centre, 9.30am. RSVP required.
- 23 Oct (Sun): Waterwatch Launch, Maroochy Sailing Club. RSVP by 17th Oct.
- 24 Oct - 26 Oct: Co-ordinators' training Workshop, Noosa Heads.
- 31 Oct (Mon): Closing date for applications: temporary Co-ordinator's position.
- 1 Nov (Tue): S.E.E.D.S. afternoon at Barung Landcare Centre, 3.30pm.
- 7 Nov (Mon): Maroochy Landcare AGM. 7.30pm at the Ginger Factory.
- 8 Nov (Tue): Barung Committee Meeting, 6.30 at Barung.
- 19 & 20 Nov: Beechmont Landcare visit.
- 19 Nov: (all day!): Bush tucker tasting/working bee at Barung.
- 23 Nov (Wed): 1st PMP workshop

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

Well, we are finally getting round to running another Property Management Planning Workshop. This one will be a little bit different to the usual with the focus being on soil, water, vegetation and wildlife. We will hold a series of workshops probably 3 or 4 along these lines. We are very interested in hearing from anybody who is interested in attending this series of workshops. The first will be on the 23/11/94 and the second is scheduled for the 15/12/94. It would be preferable for the properties involved to be larger than 20 acres. The aim is to try and have a group of similar sized properties working on similar things. The group will decide where we wish to go with the workshops after the initial introduction covering the four broad topics above. After we have finished this series there is every possibility that we will hold similar workshops for smaller properties or a group with a different area of interest. Please let us know what you are interested in to allow us to design the next series of workshops. As for this series we need people to contact us as soon as possible so we can order maps for the mapping component.

FAX MACHINE

Lexy hurriedly sent off an application to Landcare a couple of weeks ago to try and get one of the four faxes and photocopiers available from Xerox for Landcare Groups. Great news we got it. So, now as far as the office goes we are very well set up after finally taking delivery of our Gaming Grants Funded photocopier about a month ago no more excuses.

And that one talent...

Have you 'retired' your business acumen, skills or experience? If you have - Barung needs you. Currently, we need advice on

**BUILDING A BUSH HOUSE
A MIST BED
AND WE NEED A
FINANCIAL CONSULTANT.**

If you've got a talent you're hiding under a native, bring it out.

TREE OF THE MONTH: *Milk Bush*

This is a small tree or shrub which makes an ideal rainforest understory. It is an attractive and rare plant with lightly scented white flowers and bright red fruit. Despite its rather uninspiring name, the Milk Bush is a beautiful addition to your rainforest or could make a nice tub specimen.

**Special Members' Price -
Just \$2.50 each**

Now a Word from Our Sponsor(s)

Without the support of our sponsors, this newsletter would probably not come out. Their advertising in each issue covers the costs of production and distribution and, in a sense, confirms the community's support of *their* Landcare Group.

The Maleny Community Credit Co-operative supports many worthwhile community initiatives. Their continued backing has been one of the many small but vital supports which have kept us viable.

MORNING GLORY INFESTATIONS - MAROOCHY SHIRE HINTERLAND

Council, in association with the Land Protection Branch, Department of Lands, is investigating the incidence of Morning Glory weed infestations in the Palmwoods/Montville area.

Much of this area is difficult to access for treatment/eradication purposes and the best means of chemical control of this weed needs to be clarified.

The Lands Department has proposed a co-ordinated trial control of a selected area of seed infestation. The Barung and Maroochy Shire Land

Care Groups will also be invited to participate in a review of this trial.

Your co-operation is sought to allow treatment personnel to gain access to or undertake treatments adjacent to your property. All appropriate safety precautions will be undertaken to prevent any ill affect to adjacent land, crops or residences.

Should you wish to discuss this further or have any concerns on this

matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Bruce Main of the Lands Department on 018 708 185.

If you've never been into the credit union it's worth a visit - if only to check out the latest art & craft exhibition and the perennially cheerful faces which seem to fill the small office.

AND THANK YOU...

In line with its stated objective of 'returning something to the community', the Credit Union recently made a \$500 donation to Barung. This donation couldn't have come at a better time. Simon Proctor also made a very generous donation of \$450 - Thank you.

Catching Elliot

(and other small, furry animals)

Barung is looking for interested people who would like to buy an Elliot Trap. What's an Elliot trap? It's actually a live rat trap which allows you to relocate the Native Marsupial Mouse (*Antechinus*)

It is very easy to distinguish between native and non native just by smelling the trap - rats stink, *Antechinus* don't. *Antechinus* are actually wonderful little carnivores (not the ones who eat out of your fruit bowl - *Antechinus* actually eat cockroaches!). The only problem is they leave runny little reminders everywhere which do stain. We are buying a bulk order of these wonderful traps for purchase by our members - but, we'll only buy them in lots of 20 so we need orders before we buy. Please ring if you would like one to solve your antechinuc/rat problems

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Your New Committee

DENISE IRONS

Denise has been working with Barung since it started. She's interested in all aspects of Landcare but has particular skill in propagation of rare and endangered plants and the protection of native animals. Denise would particularly like feedback from members on the establishment of wildlife corridors.

SAMMY RINGER

Sammy has been a television and radio writer for more years than she'll admit. She's still learning the names of many of our plants and animals but for now she's delighted to be involved with the enterprise arm of Barung. She would be thrilled to hear from members with ideas for Landcare style publications.

EVENTS

Weeds & B-B-Q's

From 9 am on November 19th, Barung will be playing host to a table full of local weeds. Got a weed you're not sure about? Got some 'foreigners' popping up in odd places? Come along and have a chat with Lexy and Denise, who will be 'weeding' all day. Bring a sausage or a steak and pop it on the B-B-Q - we'll supply the salad.

Nouveau Bush Tucker Tasting

On this same Saturday, we'll be putting on a 'nouveau bush tucker' tasting courtesy of Michelle Wracrow and Joseph Zender, who will be on hand to talk about this distinctly Australian range of foods, how you can cook with them, find them in the wild or grow them in your own backyard.

The tasting will start at 4 pm. Bring a bottle of wine (make it Australian!).

The Best Bit

The bush tucker and weeds are really just an incentive to get you along for the real highlight of the day - a working bee to spruce up the nursery area at Barung.

With the planting season almost upon us, we need to sort, weed, rack and generally get the nursery back into order after a hard winter and a dry spring.

Bring a cap and gloves if you like - the work's not hard and we can promise you good company.

SAFURDAY NOVEMBER 19th AT BARUNG

Followed by a...

FAREWELL OUR CO-ORDINATOR PARTY!!

a farewell party for Lexy - at Barung this Saturday night. BYO and something for the Barby.



SDS

Survey and
Development
Services

62 Maple St, Maleny 943 800

Fruit Trees

If you want them, we'll get them in. Barung has found a very good fruit tree wholesaler and if we get twenty orders or more, we'll bring the trees in.

Labels for the trees will be displayed at the office, so you can come in and make a choice from these.. There are special discounts for orders of 10 or more. These trees will be good healthy specimens so why not place an order by phone.

Ring today on 943 151.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to:

Spencer and Karen Shaw
 Elaine Green
 Julian Drieberg
 John Pedrazzini
 Jill Morris and Richard Dent
 Vivienne Coleman
 Suzanne Ingram and Bo Williams
 F. Lang and J. Michaels

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 Kate & Paul Durham

The New Committee

At this year's AGM, sixteen nominations were accepted for the 8 committee member positions. The following were elected:
 Lexy Forbes
 Jan Tilden
 Denise Irons
 Anne-Marie
 John Rea
 Sammy Ringer
 Kathy Zaiko
 David Fraser

At the first meeting of this new committee, the following were voted office holders:

President Jan Tilden
 Vice Pres. Anne-Marie Watt
 Treasurer Lisa Wood
 Secretary Kathy Zaiko

As before, there will be a number of subcommittees:

Rural
 Enterprise Arm



Member support on these subcommittees is crucial so if there's an area you feel you could contribute to - do!

MALENY DRILLING
 Div. Blue Water Bores

IMPROVED WATER BORE CONSTRUCTION

Ph. Ron Boxsell - 942 167
 or Paul & Shirley Markwell - 459 370

We support Landcare

Rural Sub-Committee

Birbeck/Bryce Visit
 16th Nov.

In July, Otto Binder addressed a well attended meeting to discuss the formation of a local Australian Forest Growers Co-op. There was a high degree of interest shown in this meeting and it appears that such a group will get off the ground. If you're interested in this, please call Barung - 943 151.

John Birbeck & Ian Bryce will be coming to November 16th meeting of the sub-committee. The committee want to discuss the existing tree preservation and any changes which are being proposed. Everyone is welcome to come to this meeting.

Barung has put a proposal to council which will link the parks in the area (the esplanade behind the Enterprise Centre - through the showgrounds and back up through the park behind Barung). Progress on this has been slow.



Thanks to you...

The new committee would like to extend its thanks to the outgoing members. Volunteer time and effort is something which seems to flourish in Maleny but even by these standards, the energy and enthusiasm of these members has done Barung proud.

Thank you.



Working for *our* future

NURSERY

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(behind the Rainforest Plaza)

Tubes - \$1.50 6" pots - \$3.50
Tubes (over 200) \$1.00 each 8" pots - \$5.50
Bunyas welcome.

OPEN TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9am to 5pm. Saturday 9am-12pm

Call in or phone us on 943 151

BARUNG LANDCARE

Management Committee
President - Jan Tilden
Vice Pres. - Annemarie Watt
Coordinator - Lexy Forbes
Secretary - Kathy Zaiko
Treasurer - Lisa Wood
Committee Members -
Denise Irons (*plants*), David
Fraser (*Rural and Enterprise
Arm*), Sammy Ringer (*Newslet-
ter & Enterprise Arm*) and John
Rea (*Mary River Catchment*)
Advisors - Ashley Sewell, Sam
Brown



17 Bicentenary Lane
Maleny, Qld 4552



E.R. & M.A. JEFFRIES,
"KOOKABURRA HOLLOW",
P.O. BOX 150,
MAPLETON,
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4500

Your Membership is CURRENT till 21/07/1995
Your continued support would be appreciated.