LANDCARE

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

April - May 2009

Barung LANDCARE
WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

[Expo photos by Steve Swayne]

CELEBRATE OUR TIMBER HERITAGE WITH BARUNG LANDCARE

At the 2009 Maleny Wood Expo, Stan Ceglinski from northern NSW will be demonstrating bush and heritage woodcrafting skills from a bygone era, and this Expo will host the first ever sawmill shoot-out on Australian soil.

The Maleny Wood Expo *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* is on May 2nd and 3rd at the Maleny Showgrounds, from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

At this celebration of Australian timbers, all Expo wood exhibitors must work in sustainably harvested Australian timbers, weed or recycled timbers, and the theme of sustainability flows throughout the event. Natural resource management displays will highlight regional environmental initiatives, and local boutique produce including wood-fired breads, bushfood condiments, cheeses and soaps will be on offer in The Taste Maleny Produce Store.

When you need a break you can take time out with a 'beer & burger' or sample a rainforest liqueur from the Landcare Bar and BBQ, or sit back with a Fair Trade latte from Montville Coffee.

There's music and entertainment for the kids and a huge multi-draw raffle with prizes that everyone will love. The admission fee of $10 for adults includes parking at the Showgrounds. Children under 16 enter for free.

The Wood Expo is one of those rare events that has 'something for everyone', whether you're a collector of fine furniture or just out for a weekend drive with the family.

The 2009 Maleny Wood Expo is supported by Caloundra Tourism and Sunshine Coast Regional Council, as well as many local businesses and organisations.

For further information about the 2009 MALENY WOOD EXPO *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture*™, visit the website, phone the Barung Landcare office, or email the coordinator, Steve McLeish:

www.malenywoodexpo.com.au
(07) 5494 3151
steve@malenywoodexpo.com.au

Barung LANDCARE
WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

SEQ Catchments
Healthy land – healthy water

Burnett Mary Regional Group
...for Natural Resource Management Inc

Caloundra
CALOUNDRA TOURISM INC

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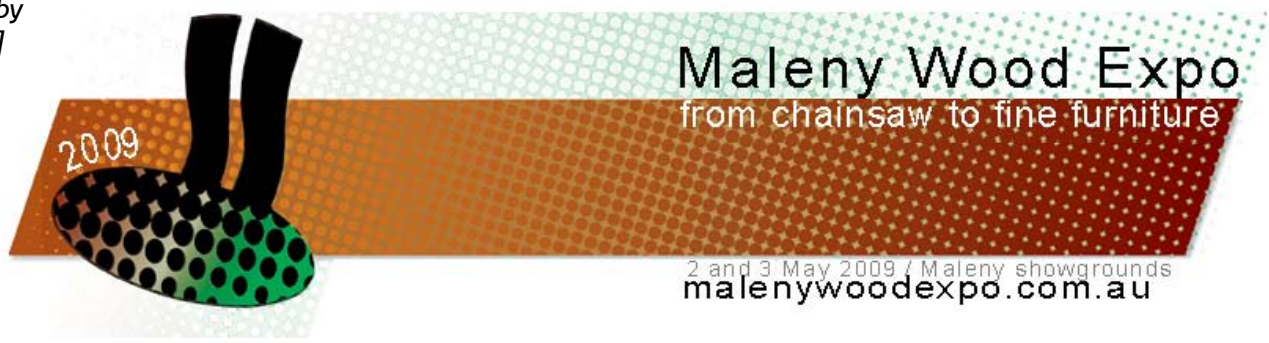
HINTERLAND TIMES

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP BARUNG

See Call for Volunteers on Page 5



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DEADLINE - Wed 13th May

for June - July 2009
Barung News contributions

Please renew your membership - your support is very important to Barung

THANK YOU

Opening Hours

BARUNG RESOURCE CENTRE

Shop 3, Riverside Centre
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

BARUNG NURSERY

Porters Lane, Maleny
OPENING SOON!
Keep an eye on the Barung Website:
www.barunglandcare.org.au

Donations to the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are Tax Deductible!

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual/family membership $ 25 pa

This entitles you to the bimonthly *Barung News* and two free trees from the Nursery, and enables you to support Barung Landcare's work in preserving and enhancing the natural environment of the Blackall Range and its environs.

Business membership $ 55 pa

Business sponsorship $275 pa

When your business supports Barung Landcare, you will be acknowledged in the bimonthly *Barung News* (800 distribution) and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery.

DONATIONS of $2 or more are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Barung gratefully acknowleges funding & sponsorships from:

Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc

SEQ Catchments – Healthy land – healthy water

Australian Government Water Fund – Community Water Grants

Threatened Species Network

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Australian Government – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – National Landcare Programme

Rainforest Rescue

Australian Government

MALENY COMMUNITY TRUST
An Initiative of the Maleny Credit Union

AUSTRALIA POST

LANDCARE AUSTRALIA

LANDCARE QUEENSLAND

WWF
The Threatened Species Network is a community based program of the Australian Government and WWF Australia.

And also the Business Sponsors and Contributors whose advertisements appear in the Barung News.

A DAY OF MIXED EMOTIONS

by Mim Coulstock

It was with mixed emotions that members and friends of two of Maleny's oldest community groups met at the old Barung Landcare site in Bicentenary Lane on Tuesday 24th March.

The meeting was a ceremonial 'handing over' of the site by Barung Landcare to the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre. Local Gubbi Gubbi woman, Bev Hand, officiated at the fire ceremony which saw members of both groups circling the fires and exchanging sides – symbolic of Barung's departure and the Neighbourhood Centre's arrival.

As Heather Spring, Barung President, said: 'It is a sad yet exciting day for Barung. Having been here for 17 years, Barung has a lot of history on this site but we now require a bigger premises which is indicative of an expanding community organisation. So it is both sad to be leaving and exciting to be looking ahead at things to come.'

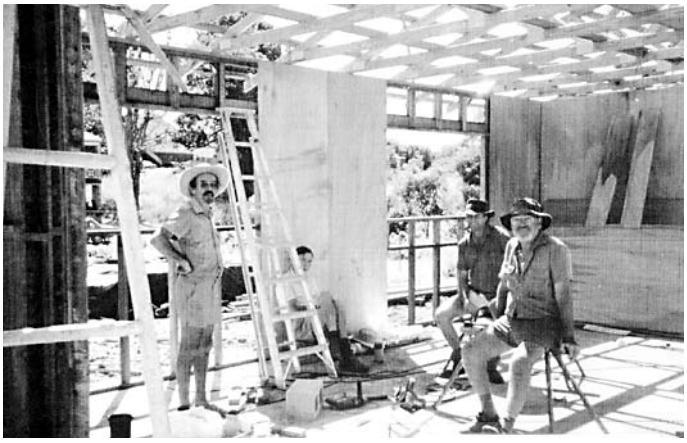
Maleny Neighbourhood Centre President, Howard Buckley, emphasised the long-standing working relationship between the two organisations and expressed his gratitude at being able to work with Barung to make the site available for the new Neighbourhood Centre.

Construction of the Neighbourhood Centre will begin soon thanks to a generous grant from the Queensland State Government. It will provide space for local people and especially local youth to access a range of community and social services and provide a permanent and much-needed home for the students of the Flexi School.

Barung Landcare has occupied the Bicentenary Lane site since 1992 when Caloundra City Council granted the fledgling Landcare group a Licence to Occupy.

On this land Barung has grown from strength to strength and has made environmental rehabilitation a part of the local vocabulary for the Blackall Range. The site provided a base for Barung to employ dozens of local people and to provide landcare advice and training for youth, local landholders and visitors to the region. It was also home to the Barung Nursery – and made possible the propagation of hundreds of thousands of local native plants for on-ground projects.

The ceremony ended with Barung friends and members handing specially grown plants to the Neighbourhood Centre – a gesture of goodwill and good luck for their exciting project. The plants will replace those lost during construction and will provide pleasure and shade to the Maleny community for years to come.



The Barung Landcare Resource Centre at 17 Bicentenary Lane under construction (above) and deconstruction (below). [Photos: Darryl Ebenezer & Barung archives]

The 'handing over' ceremony from Barung Landcare to the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre (above).

The land before Barung first moved in (below).

JILUMBAR NATURE REFUGE

LIVING ON OUR LAND by Mim Coulstock

On our first visit to our 20 ha property at Curramore, we fell in love with the spur track – a long bush track that, at some point, left our property and entered State Forest, now Maleny National Park. The changing ecosystems were enough to capture my heart – gums on the ridges for my childhood and rainforest gullies for my Barung/Blackall Range legacy. We also explored the 'other' track – leading through the paddock down a steep slope and ending at a two metre wall of lantana.

While we were negotiating the sale, I attended a Barung information night on the Qld EPA's one-off Vegetation Incentives Program being run through Greening Australia. This aim of this program was to encourage landholders with significant regrowth vegetation to put it under a perpetually binding Nature Refuge agreement and commit to rehabilitating it. Along with the commitment would come funding over five years. My immediate thought was for the area behind the 'lantana wall'.

I consulted with Caloundra's Land for Wildlife officer, Nick Clancy, and began the long process of applying for the VIP funding. My application was successful. The property settlement went through in January 2007 and the Jilumbar Nature Refuge was gazetted in the following month. The grant contributed funds for pushing access tracks for rehabilitation and firebreaks, fencing the area from stock and, most importantly, controlling weeds.

Immediately we started on stage one – pushing the access tracks. For four hot, humid days I followed as the excavator driver slowly and precariously made his way past the 'wall' and into the morass of weeds. Several times he had to backtrack to avoid steep inclines and invisible gullies lurking within the lantana. Other times he had to move basalt boulders that had fallen from above in order to progress.

Another surprise lay in store: most of the lantana was covered with a healthy mat of Blue Morning Glory – a nightmare! But we were not deterred and eventually found our way to a point we deemed to be the border with the State Forest. Access had been achieved!

Tree ferns smothered in Blue Morning Glory vine.

Clearing lantana and Blue Morning Glory by mechanical (above) and manual (below, with Barung Contracting Services) means.

[Photos: Mim Coulstock]

... To be continued next issue of the Barung News

Next came the fencing, using a local man with local skills. For the first time ever I had fences and gates where I wanted them.

Enter Barung Contracting Services (BCS), who began work in mid 2007. We walked the tracks and decided to follow the tried and true bush regeneration formula of working outwards from the best areas. Replanting wasn't a viable option because of the expense of planting and mulching such a large area and the difficulty of getting water to the new plants, so our plan relied wholly on existing seed sources. With a 375 metre boundary between the National Park and the Nature Refuge and existing small but good regrowth patches, the Barung team and I felt confident all we needed to do was remove the competition.

After a few false starts, we concentrated our efforts in the areas east and west of the track near the 'sitting tree'. On the western side, the existing forest edge persuaded us we could get good results from clearing the adjacent broad open area. On the eastern side, we just started heading into the mass and were pleasantly surprised to find odd patches of regrowth among the lantana and vine weeds.

Unfortunately we went into the long wet summer in the middle of that period unprepared for the vicious weed growth that ensued. The weather was too wet to work and the tracks too wet for vehicle access. By the end of that summer much of the previously cleared areas had massive weed growth. Among the mostly annual herbaceous weeds was a lot of moth vine and this is an ongoing issue. Precious funds had to be used to re-secure these areas and I vowed to go into the 09 summer better prepared.

However, the up-side of that first summer was the extraordinary regeneration of a suite of pioneer species. The area west of the 'sitting tree' is now called 'the *Pipterus* forest' and is dominated by a stand of *Pipterus*, *Macaranga* and other emerging species, with many plants now more than two metres high. Although ongoing vine weed control is essential, keeping on top of the annual weeds is relatively simple.

The eastern area was slightly slower to respond, but after the second summer the results are almost as exciting. Because of the perches provided by the large existing *Rhodosphaera rhodamnia* and *Acacia melanoxylon*, the suite of regenerating species is much broader.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP BARUNG

One of the most frequent comments from visitors to the Maleny Wood Expo is how much they value and enjoy the friendly faces of the volunteers.

Visitor interaction with Expo volunteers starts at the front gate and continues throughout their time at the event.

On the front line, volunteers attend the parking, entry gates, raffle ticket sales, Landcare BBQ tent and Barung's plant sales.

Behind the scenes, volunteers keep the event running smoothly and ensure visitors go home with a lingering taste of Maleny's 'country' hospitality.

The Expo is the Hinterland's premier tourism event, and we need your help as volunteers to make it work.

If you can lend a hand for a few hours before or during the Expo weekend, please contact

Steve McLeish on

0428 674 665.

Alternatively you can drop in to Barung's new office next to Australia Post and fill out a Volunteer Form.

As a volunteer, you will receive free entry to the Expo, a drink voucher, and a free tree from the Barung Nursery as a token of thanks for your help.

WHERE HAVE THE SEASONS GONE? *by Lin Fairlie*

For many people, often those living in cities, the seasons no longer seem to be important. Winter clothes in shops in Brisbane in February, advertisements for jumpers in newspapers when the temperature outside is 35 degrees!

And then there's air conditioning and/or climate control. As soon as you walk inside, with the flick of a switch the outside temperature can be rapidly forgotten. If it's hot outside, inside can be cool; if outside is cold then inside can still be your 'summer' temperature choice. No need to open windows to adjust the temperature. Maybe they just don't open so you have no choice.

Next to consider is food. Do you look for stone fruit all year round in the larger supermarkets? Or do you really enjoy their summer appearances and then look forward to next year? And what about mangoes! Some fruit, such as watermelon, now seem to be available all year round due to developments in tropical agriculture.

In some ways this is sad. Watermelon used to say 'end of year break-up' for many primary school children and the excitement of all that went with that. But now watermelon is not special because it's available all year round.

But what has this to do with 'landcare'?

If we are tuned into our native birds we still recognise the seasons. Birds which come to eat particular fruits have been very welcome visitors this year to my silky myrtles and native mulberries. Now that the flush of fruit seems to have finished, birds such as the satin bower birds, coels and figbirds seem to have moved on. This allows the honeyeaters, finches and so on to come searching for their share of my trees.

The nesting times of pale-headed rosellas and rainbow lorikeets is another busy time on many properties. Don't the lorikeets love the nectar in the black beans! Then there are the Davidson plums, the various lillipillies … These fruiting events and the flushes of new leaves on many species are just so seasonal.

Yes, we do still have seasons if we are gardeners or are tuned into the local cycles of wildlife in our region. There is always something to appreciate.

Check out the
BARUNG NEWS in
BRIGHT LIVING COLOUR
at
www.barunglandcare.org.au

More resources coming online soon for Barung members

RESTORATION AT WITTA

LIVING ON OUR LAND by David Johnston

In July 2006 my wife and I moved to Witta. Our move was motivated mainly by Joanne's serious illness and we found that she felt much better here. Maybe it is the clean air or the natural beauty of the area that has a restorative effect on us both. We have now been blessed by the arrival of our little daughter, Ella.

Our 3.5 acre property was originally farming land. The front one acre paddock has been used for horses and currently runs our three well-fed pet sheep. The steeper one acre at the rear has basically been left as regrowth forest. There is also a small dam. In the property below us there is a strongly flowing creek that joins Obi Obi Creek below Baroon Pocket Dam. A large waterfall can be heard from our house almost all year round.

There are some large *Neolitsea*, *Pittosporum* and *Drypetes* trees just below our house with some larger *Eucalyptus* forming a high canopy. Lantana has established itself where there is no natural understorey beneath the huge gums. Small seedlings of rainforest species can be seen on the edges of the lantana just waiting for their chance to reach for the sky.

Soon after moving in I tried to identify and remove potential weed species such as *Duranta* and Wandering Jew in the gardens. When Jo was pregnant her illness seemed to be in recession and together we eradicated (by hand pulling) a large patch of *Impatiens* that was threatening to travel down to the creek.

One of our objectives is to link up the forest below us with the vegetation around the dam, then to join this to the line of existing lemon and aniseed myrtles (from a previous owner's 'bush tucker' garden) and further through the sheep paddock to the front boundary and neighbouring Land for Wildlife property. We hope this will encourage small birds and animals to utilise this corridor. We are planting many butterfly foodplants to help strengthen the varied population that already exists on the edge of the rainforest regrowth.

Due to my commitments caring for Jo and Ella I am mindful of what we can maintain, particularly in times of fast weed growth. We used Barung Contracting Services in mid 2007 to start the revegetation project on the dam to replace the exotic flax and succulent garden. The team did a great job with weeding, planting and mulching. The dam was also covered in *Salvinia*, which I manually removed with the help of two wonderful and energetic friends. It is true that it makes rich garden mulch but it took many hours of tedious work with nets and tongs to eradicate it from the dam.

The previous owners mowed right to the water's edge. Now the existing and planted sedges have formed a lovely thick edge on the bank of the dam. This is possibly the reason we didn't hear a single Cane Toad call this summer. Instead we have a deafening chorus of varied frog calls. However we still do need to keep much of the property mown until we start to revegetate new areas.

I have been very interested in insects, mainly butterflies, for most of my life; firstly in scientific collection, then in their life history, and now in their conservation and rehabilitation. Our property is a 'link' in the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network with over 30 planted *Pararistolochia praevenosa* vines. These vines supported caterpillars only two years after planting!

We have had many unusual crickets, beetles and moths attracted to the outside light on hot humid nights. One night in mid-February I put the veranda light on and only a couple of tiny moths showed up. I was about to turn it out when I noticed a large brown moth that I thought was probably a Fruit-piercing Moth (they love our mandarins). Then I looked closer because I recognised that

Above: Our dam showing the thick reedy edge.

Below: Pink Underwing Moth showing the squiggle on the upper wings and bright colour on the underwings.

[Photos: David Johnston]

distinctive little squiggle on the forewing from the pictures of the Pink Underwing Moth (*Phyllodes imperialis*) in a recent Land for Wildlife newsletter. I took a couple of shots before gently touching its forewing to reveal the bright pink hindwing. The moth was larger than I had expected and seems a little bigger than the Fruit-piercing Moth (*Eudocima fullonia*).

Even though we have done very little revegetation so far, we think it is important to maintain the existing bush by removing potential threats. It is a slow process but now we also have the joy of our daughter exploring and 'helping' us to protect this beautiful environment.

Managing Horses on Small Properties

Pasture establishment and management; grazing management; property design and horse facilities; water protection, conservation and supply; manure management; trees and plants on a horse property; horse health and much more! From the author of *Managing Horses on Small Properties*.

Tuesday 14 April, 9.00am – approx 3.30pm, Caboolture Region Environment Education Centre, $50 (places limited)

To book: jane@equiculture.com.au or 07 5543 8623

For more information about developing responsible horse ownership, visit: ***www.equiculture.com.au***

DEVOLVED GRANTS UNDERWAY

SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

Barung have been fortunate in securing funding for two small devolved grant projects which have to be completed around mid-year.

Caring for our Country Stanley/Pumicestone Biodiversity Project

Eleven landholders in the Upper Stanley River catchment have received funding through South East Queensland Catchments (SEQC) under this project. With the funding landholders have undertaken a range of activities including fencing and revegetation work, to enhance their properties' natural resources, such as by improving water quality and protecting remnant vegetation.

Recipients of this grant attend a three-hour Property Management Planning (PMP) workshop. Attendees are provided with tools and processes that enable them to prepare informed plans for developing their properties. It is much easier (financially, physically and emotionally) to rectify mistakes made on paper rather than on the ground. A successful PMP workshop held on Saturday 7th March at Peachester was facilitated by Greg Leach from SEQC and attended by nine landholders.

If you are interested in attending a PMP workshop (you don't need to be a grant recipient), please let me or Barung know (on 5494 3151) and I'll add your name to my list.

Rainforest Recovery Project

We have an extension to last year's successful Rainforest Recovery Project which was funded through Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG). This project will fund five landholders to carry out work on properties in the Mary River catchment.

Most of this work will be focussed on supporting the enhancement of Regional Ecosystem (RE) 12.12.1 which is described as 'Simple Notophyll Vine Forest usually with abundant *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Piccabeen Palm)'. It is also known as gully vine forest and has an 'Of concern' status which means that the remnant extent of this type in 2003 was deemed to be less than 30 000 ha and more than 30% of the pre-clearing area remained.

More information about REs can be found at the EPA website: http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/biodiversity/regional_ecosystems/

SuperGraze

Barung is also involved with the delivery of SuperGraze, a cross-regional project delivered (in our case) through SEQC, which is aimed at enhancing landholders' skills to better manage their grazing enterprises through workshops and other educational opportunities. SuperGraze is aimed at demonstrating to graziers that best management practices can benefit them financially while improving the natural resource base upon which their enterprises depend.

The first workshop funded by this project, which we are running on Monday 30th March in association with local rural suppliers Maleny Town & Country in Coral St, will cover animal health (with a focus on buffalo fly control), herbicides (using the right one at the right time), and pastures (seeds and seeding). People attending this initial workshop will be invited to contribute to a list of topics for future workshops/field days based on what they feel would be useful to them in relation to grazing management.

Barung LANDCARE

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

FIELD DAY

Farm Forestry, Bushfoods, Sub-tropical Fruits

SATURDAY 18th APRIL 2009

Presentations, field walks & product displays

At the well-renown and diverse Bellthorpe property of Darryl Collins, previously managed by Matt Kirby of 'Trees for Earth'.

Matt will revisit this property where integrated planning tools such as contour layouts, mulching systems, green manure legume crops and organic soil build-up and maintenance are employed to benefit farm forestry, bushfoods and sub-tropical fruit trees.

Speakers at the field day will also include representatives from Nutri-Tech Solutions at Yandina, Roseash Farm Forestry Consultants (Ashley Sewell), Landcare's CarbonSMART in south-east Queenland (Paul Daley), Queensland Wild Foods & Products Inc, and the QDPI Maroochy Research Station.

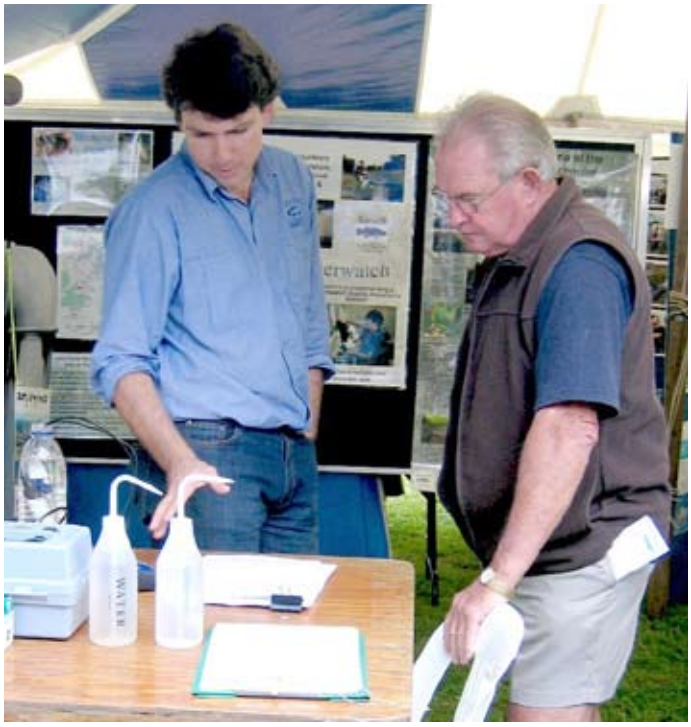
TIME:	9.00 am—5.00 pm (Car pooling optional from Maleny Showgrounds 8.15 am)
COST:	$25 (individual or family), includes morning tea and gourmet lunch
TO BOOK:	Barung Landcare by **Wed 15th April** on 5494 3151 or barungadmin@big.net.au
MORE INFO:	John Muir on 0421 836 325 or johnmuir@big.net.au

MRCCC WATERWATING at MALENY WOOD EXPO

If you are a rural landholder using water from a creek, dam or bore, MRCCC invites you to bring a water sample to the MRCCC display at the Maleny Wood Expo for a free basic water test. This test will provide an indication of salinity and pH levels as well as information on the suitability of your supply for watering stock or growing crops. Water testing will be available both days between 2 and 4 pm.

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) has been coordinating a community waterwatch network in the upper Mary for more than seven years now. This network currently involves landholders from Mapleton to Conondale to Maleny who are testing water quality in their local waterways every month. The valuable data that volunteers have collected over the years is entered into a database and used to identify trends in water quality.

For more information about MRCCC's Waterwatch Program or other project activities throughout the Mary Catchment, call 5482 4766 or check out the website at www.mrccc.org.au



MRCCC's Brad Wedlock tests a water sample from a community member's property.

Noosa Festival of Water

***Sunday 7 June**, 10am to 3pm*

Lake Macdonald Amphitheatre & Noosa Botanic Gardens

Enjoy free entertainment, boat tours on the lake to the Noosa District Fish Hatchery and Council's water treatment plant, free water testing for dam, creek or bore water, displays and info sessions at this annual festival with activities for all age groups.

More info: ***MRCCC Resource Centre***
5482 4766 or ***mrccc@ozwide.net.au***

CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOOS - A CROW'S CHALLENGE

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

The Channel-billed Cuckoo is the sort of bird that is unmistakeable after your first introduction. These birds are huge, having a body length of over half a metre and wingspan of close to a metre. And they sport an enormous bill which gives them the appearance of hornbills (birds of tropical Africa and Asia). When Channel-billed Cuckoos are in flight they look like a grey flying cross when viewed from below. As if this wasn't enough to distinguish them, they announce themselves with an extremely loud maniacal crowing and squawking.

Like many cuckoos, they are summer migrants. They winter in New Guinea and Indonesia and come to northern and eastern Australia to breed in the summer and autumn months. In common with most cuckoos they pass on the child-raising role to other birds, choosing to lay their eggs in the nests of larger species such as currawongs, crows and magpies. Often a pair of cuckoos will work together to ensure that the female can lay an egg in the host nest. The male flies over the nest to draw away the host birds which try to mob it because most birds recognise them as a threat. Meanwhile the female cuckoo slips in and lays her egg. The host birds then incubate the eggs along with their own. Once hatched, the large nestling cuckoos out-compete the hosts' chicks for food and the latter usually don't survive. In a crazy quirk of nature, the host parents then start feeding these oversized cuckoo babies.

All this was observed recently by people living near Bridge Creek out of Maleny. Crows raised three raucous baby Channel-billed Cuckoos which quickly outgrew the host parents. According to the locals, these babies would constantly harass the crows to feed them, exhausting the dutiful parent birds. Although this social phenomenon has provided some interest for the local residents and school kids at the River School, the maniacal calls at 5 am and at various intervals during the day have tested some nerves. I can imagine that the crows sound quite mild and melodious in comparison.

Presumably these cuckoo chicks will snip the apron strings soon and start migrating north for the winter. Once independent they feed mainly on fruit, particularly figs, but also take insects and sometimes nestlings and eggs of other birds. I have watched them feeding on Small-leaved Fig (*Ficus obliqua*) fruit, delicately picking up the small one centimetre fruit with the tip of the enormous bill and tossing it back into the gullet.

In northern Australia, the arrival of the Channel-billed Cuckoos often coincides with the beginning of the Wet, giving rise to other names for the bird such as storm-bird, rain-bird or flood-bird. So if you ever hear a demented maniacal cry passing overhead, you may just spot a couple of these magnificent birds seeking out a fig tree or an unsuspecting surrogate host.

HOLLOW LOG HOMES

for sale at Barung

Small parrot, Small bat
Glider, Possum

OUR NEW (TEMP) HOME

NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington

We've moved… we have yet to settle! As I sit here composing this article with a cyclone watch just to the north, Wayne hasn't made me a coffee because the fridge has frozen the milk and he only has enough for himself!

What a day, what an effort, what a result! On Friday 27th February an amazing effort was put in by everyone involved. ALL the plants and benches were relocated from Bicentenery Lane to Porters Lane. A thank you to those that assisted just doesn't seem enough! We starting putting plants in the pantec before 6 am and finished unpacking in the dark! In addition, Wayne went up and down the valley a few times to check watering and add to his fitness! We were well 'fuelled' by Mim, John, Mary, Clare and Colleen who organised morning and afternoon tea and lunch – yum and thanks. All hands on deck meant that there was a smooth transition from one place to the other. By the time we loaded up the last load we had smoothed our 'turnaround' time to one third of the time taken for the first load.

The first week at Porters Lane involved 'dismantling' Barung's old site as we have come to know it. Firstly, the nursery office was moved, and the windows, doors and all manner of fixtures were taken away ready for recycling at the 'permanent site'. Wayne was busy sorting all the items that were relocated to Porters Lane so that the hardening-off area could be set up.

The following week involved Wayne 'sorting out' the layout and reorganising the new site. We were in the process of setting up the hardening-off area, potting benches, seating areas and so forth – but the rain put paid to that so there was lots of discussions about what is required! So please be patient if you have ordered plants.

At the moment we have no computers, telephone lines or internet facilities, so I have started to tread a well-worn path to the Riverside Centre to answer emails and return phone calls etc.

Ordering plants

So if you require plants, we are currently taking orders for a minimum of 50 native tubes. Turn-around is 3 to 7 days, depending on what is happening on site, whether we have the plants, and when I get into the office to pick up the orders!

You can order in person at the Resource Centre or by phone to 5494 3151. You can also contact us directly at the nursery on 0429 943 152 or nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

The SCRC has just started putting in the road at Porters Lane so there is no public access for customers to the Nursery at this time.

Opening again

At this stage we are planning to be open for retail sales by late March to early April – depending on the road and a few other things! We will keep you posted. Again, thank you for your patience.

Keep an eye on the Barung website for Nursery opening details: www.barunglandcare.org.au

IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY and WATER INDEPENDENCE

With funds received under the Lifestyle WaterWise Grant Program (for not-for-profit organisations), Barung Landcare has been able to enhance the efficiency of water delivery to plants in the nursery through upgrading and improving the irrigation system, significantly reducing the amount of water used. In addition, by acquiring and installing three large water tanks the Barung Nursery is now completely independent of the Maleny reticulated town water supply.

Thank you to the Queensland State Government Department of Natural Resources and Water for the funds to undertake these works.

WEEDY VINES NOW IN FLOWER

WEED WATCH by Ed Surman

Madeira Vine *Anredera cordifolia* and Blue Morning Glory *Ipomoea indica* are so easy to recognise by their flowers that one would need to be wearing blinkers not to notice them at present. The continued proliferation of these weeds poses a serious threat to our region's biodiversity.

The following descriptions and advice on herbicide use are taken from Biosecurity Queensland fact sheets, usually readily available online. At the time of writing, the Blue Morning Glory fact sheet appears to be inaccessible, but the Madeira (Maderia) Vine fact sheet can be viewed at:

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/Biosecurity_EnvironmentalPests/IPA-Maderia-Vine-PP86.pdf

Sun Tzu, over 2000 years ago, wrote a book called *The Art of War*. One message from this ancient text that sticks in my mind is 'Know your enemy'. Understanding the modes of spread of these weed species is critical when we are considering how to manage them.

The enemy

Blue Morning Glory is a vigorous, perennial climber providing a significant shading hazard to other species. The numerous leaves are broadly heart-shaped, sometimes with 3 to 5 lobes. The large, funnel-shaped flowers are blue-mauve in colour, growing in groups of 3 to 12, and are an eye-catching feature. The petals are fused together, and the short-lived flowers are readily replaced as they perish.

Madeira Vine is also known as potato vine or lamb's tail vine. It is a vigorous climber which can produce thousands of aerial tubers along its stem. Its light green, wide, heart-shaped, fleshy leaves are generally 4 to 5 cm in length. It produces dense blankets of creamy flower spikes from December to April. The flower spikes are 10 cm long and each spike, made up of numerous individual small flowers, resembles a lamb's tail. At its worst, Madeira vine produces thousands of small light brown or green potato-like tubers which fall to the ground and sprout.

Both species spread through vegetative means. Instead of relying on seeds for reproduction, parts of the plant can easily produce new plants. Morning Glory stems are seemingly able to take root at any point and grow into new plants. The potato-like tubers that develop on Madeira Vine can form hundreds of new plants and the tubers can remain fertile for up to a decade. Propagules must be removed and disposed of carefully unless they are killed on site through correct herbicide application.

The battle plan

Management of both of these vines varies depending on the density of the infestation and presence of desirable vegetation. Below are some tips from the Caloundra City Council Weed Awareness CD (a great resource if you can get hold of one).

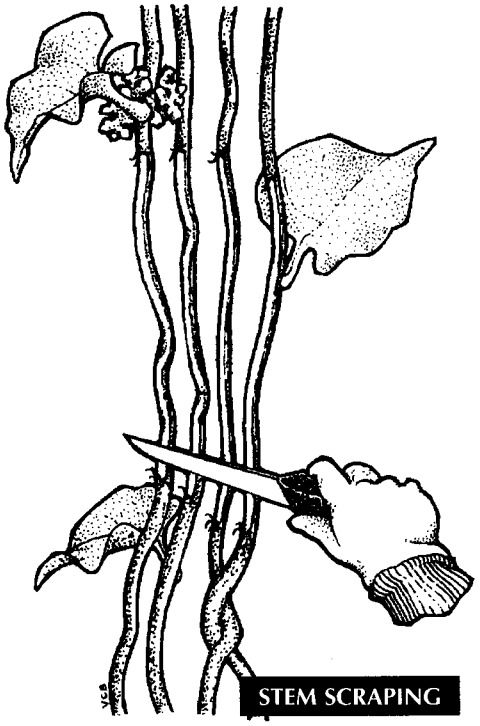
For light infestations, careful removal by hand is often best. For heavy infestations of both weed species, the application of herbicide becomes necessary.

When stem scraping as shown in the diagram, use a 50/50 mix of herbicide to water. The herbicide mix must be applied within 5 to 10 seconds of exposing the cambium layer of the plant. Similarly, when cut stumping (cutting the vine and painting the stump with herbicide), the herbicide must be applied immediately after cutting to ensure the herbicide is taken into the plant.

If the Morning Glory vine is less than pencil thickness, only scrape one side of the stem; if thicker, then scrape on two sides but not all the way round.

Where untreated parts of Madeira Vine are not too close to the ground, on young vines that have not yet begun producing aerial tubers, or on vines with immature aerial tubers (which quickly desiccate), cut stump with Glyphosate (360 g/L) 10 mL in 20 mL water. Apply in spring before tubers proliferate. Retreat if necessary. Madeira Vine can also be foliar-sprayed with Fluroxypyr (200 g/L). If these methods are used on Madiera Vines with 'ripe' heavy clusters of aerial tubers (ready to fall), it is essential that you follow up by promptly treating the new growth that will arise from fallen tubers.

Vigilant Herbicide Gel is a relatively new product that is proving to be very effective when stem scraping Madeira Vine. It comes in an easy-to-use gel and seems to kill the tubers.



[Diagram: from 'Control of Vines and Scramblers', a NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Bush Regeneration Information Sheet, reproduced in the Caloundra City Council Weed Awareness CD.]

The Biosecurity Queensland fact sheets provide further information on other application methods and herbicide concentrations.

Safe herbicide use

Always use chemicals in accordance with the chemical container's label and follow the safety directions. It is illegal and maybe harmful to yourself and the environment to use in any other manner or concentration. More is not necessarily better; chemical rates specified on the labels have been carefully researched to give maximum effect. Protect the environment and dispose of unused chemicals and containers in the correct manner.

It is a good idea to ask your herbicide supplier for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The MSDS will provide detailed information on the toxicity of the herbicide and its environmental effects.

Follow up

Whichever method you choose to control Madeira Vine or Morning Glory, you will need to plan to follow up. Keep a close eye on areas that you have weeded and monitor for regrowth. Persistence pays off in the end!

Barung can help

If you are stuck and wondering what you can do, our friendly staff members at Barung are a good place to start for assistance and advice. Barung Contracting Services can advise you or manage weeds for you at a competitive price.

TEAM LEADERS ON

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Kate Fraser

For the Barung Contracting Services team it's been business as usual while the Nursery and Resource Centre have been relocating. At night the Contracting team's tools and vehicles are being stored in a temporary location but during the day they have been out in all elements steadily removing weeds, preparing ground for planting and getting trees in the ground.

The recent warm wet weather has sometimes proved a challenge but overall the conditions have provided a good start for newly planted trees. As well as carrying out the on-ground revegetation and regeneration work, the team have also been busy providing advice and guidance to landholders on weed identification and what to plant and assisting landholders with Property Planning.

Barung Contracting Services now has two Team Leaders with a depth of experience who can assist landholders with all aspects of project management from initial advice and planning through site preparation and implementation and on to maintenance.

Ed Surman getting down to business. [Photo: Kate Fraser]

Matt Bateman, who has been with Barung Contracting since early 2008 and Team Leader since July 2008, has more than 20 years experience in horticulture. Matt studied at the Ryde School of Horticulture and did what was probably one of the first bush regeneration courses in 1986. Matt has worked in aboriculture, greens-keeping, landscape construction, nursery and landscape design, and operated his own landscape design and construction business.

Matt's interest in the vegetation of the Blackall Range started while he was doing revegetation and regeneration work on his own property, where he quickly gained knowledge of the local species. He has always had a keen interest in natural systems, loves being out in the bush and enjoys being part of a community group. Matt's broad experience means that he can provide advice to a wide range of landholders.

Ed Surman is back with Barung after an absence of a few years, during which he worked for the former Caboolture Shire Council, now the Moreton Bay Regional Council, running the Community Bushcare program and assisting in Natural Area Management. Ed has been working in bush restoration since 1992 and has extensive experience in on-ground work, workplace training and assessment, project management and team supervision. Ed is especially interested in enhancing and preserving local biodiversity, and he says he is very happy to be back working in the bush that he loves and with the community that he calls home.

As Team Leaders with Barung Contracting Services, Ed and Matt are planning to increase Barung's capacity to deliver services to local government, Barung members and other landholders in this magnificent part of the world.

Contact Ed and Matt at Barung Contracting Services to talk about how they can assist you with revegetation and weed control on your property on 0429 943 156 or contracting@barunglandcare.org.au, or through Barung Landcare on 5494 3151.

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Two excited Pink Underwing Moth larvae making short work of food vine Carronia multisepalea *(right and below).*

These photos were taken at a Reesville property where Barung Contracting Services are planting approximately 1000 native plants as part of the Threatened Species Network-funded 'Barung Pink Underwing Moth Revegetation' Project.

[Photos: Ed Surman]

BEAUTIFUL BANKSIAS

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Our bushland and forests here on the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland are not always particularly colourful during late autumn and winter. Plants are certainly flowering at this time of year but spring colour is what we celebrate, especially in the coastal wallum. However, we do have our beautiful banksias to thank for winter flowers and nectar for our birds when other similar food may be in short supply.

Australia has many banksias, and we are familiar with the more spectacular species from Western Australia. Sometimes we run the risk of discounting our own local species and sub-species but check the index in *Mangroves to Mountains* and you will find a list of nine, so we're not doing too badly for this genus.

Three in particular are worthy of a place in the ornamental garden. All are either large shrubs or medium trees. Two are commencing their flowering season now, at least on the eastern escarpment of the Range, and the other will start later but then flower spasmodically for most of the year. Timing of flowering does depend on altitude, latitude and seasonal conditions. All seem to be tolerant of a range of soil conditions including the heavier clays but waterlogged soils would be risky.

First on the list is *Banksia integrifolia* subsp. *integrifolia* which is widespread and can be seen in wet and dry eucalypt forests both on the coast and up here on the Range. It can grow to 20 metres with a relatively open branching habit but will probably be smaller in the garden. It produces pale yellow spike-like inflorescences and has stiff dark green leaves with whitish undersides. The inflorescences are not large and vary considerably in size but are numerous. The long-lasting woody seed cones are quite decorative.

Banksia robur is a large sprawling multi-stemmed shrub to 3.5 metres and this one is the most tolerant of poorly drained soils. Its natural habitat is more coastal but it grows very well up here, flowering through early spring and summer and into autumn. The dense inflorescences are greenish, turning to yellow and then slowly changing in colour from a rich reddish brown to grey. These remain on the shrub and are very attractive against the large stiff serrated leaves with their pronounced yellow midvein. *Banksia robur* can be pruned quite hard if its growth needs to be contained.

Last but certainly not least is *Banksia aemula*, the wallum banksia. It grows to 8 metres in its usual sandy soils but does well here and is a very attractive addition to the garden. The large terminal inflorescences are creamy white to yellowish and borne against relatively narrow mid-green serrated leaves. Big woody follicles develop as the inflorescences mature and are quite a feature of the tree. This species has particularly attractive orange-brown knobbly bark and the most dense foliage.

Look out also for *Banksia spinulosa* var. *collina*, a widespread multi-stemmed bushy shrub. Plant any or all of these and the honeyeaters will be delighted.

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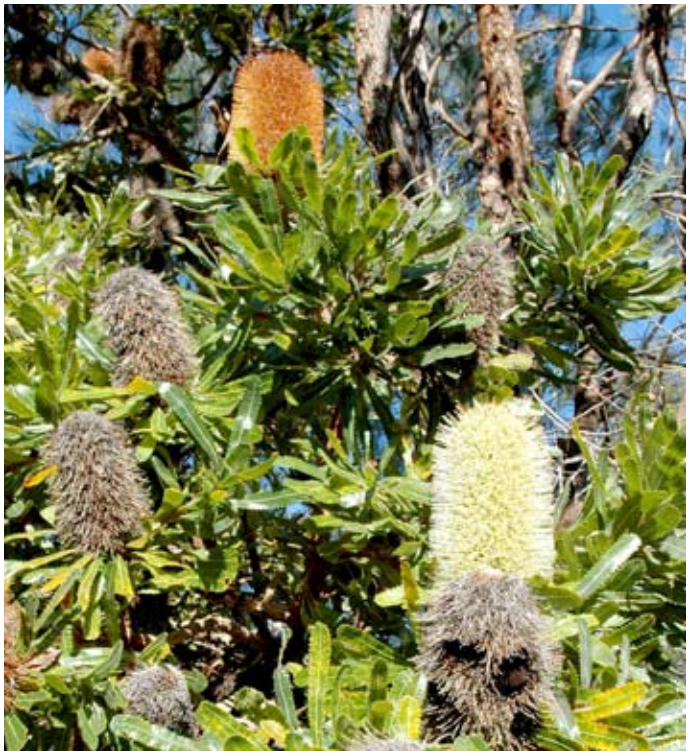
More information and forms available at the Barung Landcare Resource Centre.



Banksia aemula. *[Photo: John Dillon]*

WILD AUSTRALIA GUIDES

BOOK REVIEW by Lin Fairlie

Readers may be interested in a series of 20 smallish books produced by Steve Parish Publishing in the series of *Wild Australia Guides*. Most of these handy-sized, informative books focus on a groups of Australian animals e.g. Frogs, Kangaroos and their relatives, Spiders, Sea Mammals etc, but others cover broader topics e.g. Native Plants, Landscape, Photography.

As would be expected, the photography in each book is excellent and a map of Australia is always provided indicating the particular animal's distribution. The text uses scientifically correct words and each book is enhanced by a glossary so that even children can make sense of the text. There is also a good index which helps the reader find common names which, let's face it, is all most of us are familiar with.

Some of the books would be excellent if you were travelling in a car and recognised the need for a quick reference for animals such as kangaroos or frogs. A well-known mammal scientist recommends *A Wild Australia Guide: Kangaroos & their relatives*, saying it's the best field guide for macropods (kangaroos) currently available.

A range of books from Steve Parish Publishing will soon be available from the Barung Bookshop!

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www.barunglandcare.org.au/publications1.html

EARTH STARS

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

On a recent trip to Bellthorpe we found two groups of earth stars (*Geastrum* sp) growing in deep litter near the track. Earth stars are another attractive type of puff ball fungus which release their spores through an opening at the top of the ball, usually in response to impact by raindrops.

Initially this fungus appears as a ball. As it develops, an outer layer opens up and splits into a star shape with five to eight rays. As it matures further, the rays curve down and push the central ball above the litter so it will more easily catch some raindrops. These fungi are usually creamy coloured but the central ball part may be brownish.

Earth stars prefer to grow in well-composted litter. According to Tony Young, colonies of up to 50 earth stars have been found on old scrub turkey nests.

Stars vary in size but can be up to 10 cm across. There seem to be several species of earth stars and so far they have been found in all states except the Northern Territory.

Reference: *A Field Guide to the Fungi of Australia* by AM Young, 2005, University of NSW Sydney.

An earth star at Bellthorpe. [Photo: Russel Denton]

Botanical & Geological Field Tours

Practical site by site guides to understanding the local vegetation and geology of the South Coast Region, including coastal wallum, wet sclerophyll, dry sclerophyll and rainforest sites. Available in 8 subregions, including Sunshine Coast south and hinterland, Sunshine Coast north, and Caboolture/Mt Mee.

Cost: Community groups free, agency staff $50

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm-ish, until end June 2009

Expressions of interest for a local workshop: Contact Barung on 5494 3151

More info: Paul Daly, SEQ Catchments, 3503 1417 or 0429 003 556

Ashley Sewell, Roseash Consultants, 5494 1305 or 0404 859 294

BOOKS, BOOKS

by Jonathan Waites

Here are a few of the many books in our local Sunshine Coast Regional Council library that may interest local landcarers:

Australian Soils and Landscapes: An illustrated compendium (N McKenzie *et al*, 2004, CSIRO Publishing)
A book containing a wealth of knowledge pertaining to Australian soils, covering soil properties, soil evolution, soil function within ecosystems, soil change influenced by past and future management. The second half of the book is devoted to descriptions of the 14 orders described by the Australian Soil Classification, a general purpose system that can be used at various levels of detail. Here can be found over 100 of the more common soils of Australia with details on their chemical and physical properties, along with descriptions of their associated landscapes. As the subtitle suggests, the text is supported by colour photographs of soil profiles and landscapes as well as maps and graphs. Well worth a look.

Wonderful World of Herbs! (I Shipard, 2008, DVD)
This 2 x DVD set records one of Isabel Shipard's Herb Courses and runs for over four hours; it is accompanied by a booklet containing course notes and extra articles. A useful addition to Isabel's book *How can I use HERBS in my daily life?* Particularly for those who prefer a visual learning experience.

Bugs Alive: a guide to keeping Australian invertebrates. (A Henderson, D Henderson & J Sinclair, 2008).
Written by staff managing the living collections in the *Bugs Alive* exhibition at the Melbourne Museum, this is a great book covering a range of Australian bugs including ants, beetles, butterflies, spiders, snails and slugs, and more. As well as guides specific to species (eg. Green carabid beetle *Calosoma schayeri*), it also has additional information on housing, food and water, and health requirements of invertebrates. There are some terrific photos (check out the hatchling grasshopper perched on the head of an adult on page 8 or the wolf spider on p110) as well as line drawings illustrating the identifying features of various critters.

Food Futures: manifestos for the future. (V Shiva (ed), 2007).
Edited by world-renowned environmentalist and thinker, Vandana Shiva, this small book outlines a program for ensuring food and agriculture become more socially and ecologically sustainable. Two manifestos discuss the future of food and seed in ways that will prolong the survival of both, along with several essays by various authors including Prince Charles, who describes agriculture as 'the most important of humanity's productive activities'.

Wild Herbs of Australia and New Zealand and *Wild Food Plants of Australia*. (Tim Low, 1991).
Great books. The first focuses on herbs (weeds), their identification and use as medicines and food. The second focuses on 'bush foods', with great colour photos of fruits, flowers and leaves and lots of useful information plus references to aboriginal use of plants.

The Cloud Book: how to understand the skies. (R Hamblyn, 2008).
A book for the committed cloud spotter, with descriptions of clouds and their classification accompanied by terrific colour photos. The cloud species (low, medium and high clouds) and varieties associated with the ten cloud genera are illustrated as well as the atmospheric processes that create them and the consequences they have for the weather.

PLANT A VINE – HELP A BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY

by Eva Ford,

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

A few decades ago the striking emerald green and black patterns of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly could be seen in large flocks along the coast from River Heads near Hervey Bay to Grafton in New South Wales.

Eva Ford with butterfly vines to go to good homes.

[Photo: Steve Hooper]

Historical clearing of lowland vine forests and more recent competition from weeds has reduced the number of food vines now available for the caterpillar stage to feed on. The current distribution of the butterfly is just one third of its previous range. The butterfly is now listed as a vulnerable species in Queensland.

The caterpillar, a very fussy eater, relies on only one rare vine species, *Pararistolochia praevenosa*, which grows in association with lowland rainforests of the coastal plains. Since European settlement, great areas of coastal forest have been converted to pasture, crops and housing. As a result of this forest 'conversion', vine numbers were greatly reduced and today the butterfly is only seen south of the Cooroy/Kenilworth area.

In late 2005 a group was formed (the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network) in south-east Queensland to promote the conservation of the butterfly through saving the remaining food vines and extending the butterfly's distribution northwards again. Mapping known vine locations and recording butterfly sightings is a crucial part of determining the status of both the butterfly and the vine. Planting more vines is a way that property owners can assist with the butterfly recovery and hopefully have the pleasure of seeing this magnificent creature in their surroundings.

With assistance from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee is working in the Mary River catchment and surrounds to collect records of vines and butterflies and distribute vines for planting to interested property owners. Right now we have vines to give to landholders in the Mary River catchment. If you are on a property we'd love you to plant 30 or more vines. You can also get your neighbours involved to share the load if you are not able to plant this many vines or are on a small holding. All year is good for vine planting to help bring back the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

For information about vine identification, to submit vine and butterfly sightings or to plant vines, contact the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee on:

5482 4766 or mrccc@ozwide.net.au

THANK YOU TO …

… Thank you and good bye to ***Ben Tarbuck***, who became known as the 'tag man'. Ben has accepted a uni placement in Brisbane. Good luck for the future Ben – we appreciated your input.

For the Great Barung Nursery Move…

Max Smith	***Wayne Webb***	***Gordon Halliday***
Clare Sluggett	***Pamela Owens***	***Stephanie Richardson***
Deanne Grace	***Mary King***	***Lindsay Thomas***
Brian Germein	***John King***	***Grant Meyer***
Michael Hand	***Mim Coulstock***	***Darryl Ebenezer***
Kerry Sluggett	***Linda Miller***	***Diana O'Connor***
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Jeane Jones	***Rob Bristoe***	***Greg Shanahan***
Rob Andrews	***Phil Stanley***	***Oskar Cafarella***
Ed Surman	***Colleen Sadler***	***Matt Bateman***
A Schafer	***Jono Bateman***	***Peter Mahon***
Lucy Killip	***Jono Waites***	***Gordon Jones***

and

… ***Graeme McDonald***, 'the pantec man' of Haylor Pty Ltd

… ***Col & Justin*** of ***Range Refuse Removal***

… ***Steve Cran*** of Truckzilla

… ***Spencer & Karen Shaw*** of ***Brush Turkey Enterprises*** for the use of your plant trolleys.

For the markets…

… Again thanks to all the people who assist with the Barung stall at the monthly Witta Growers Markets: ***Lin & David Fairlie, Brian Germein, Michael Colby-King, Diana O'Connor, Amber & Zach Worthington, Kate Fraser, David Binstead, Darryl Ebenezer, Amelia The Coffee Guru***!, and all those who help with the put-up and pull-down of the tents and so forth…

And to …

… ***Terry & Rhonda Boyle*** for your kind donation

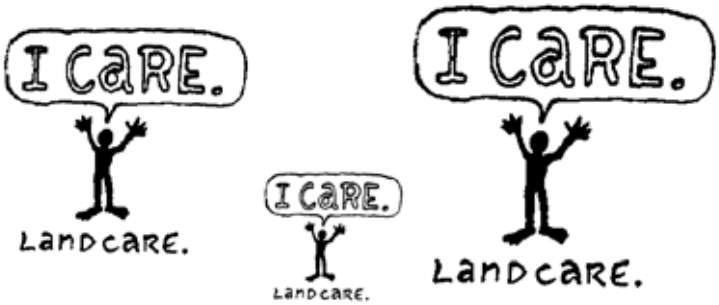
… ***Raine See*** for helping out in the office over the last couple of months

… ***Cilla Rose*** for looking after and restocking our first aid kits

… Our new office/Expo vollies ***Cynthia Rye***, ***Lainey Sharman*** and ***Beth***.

AND THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO …

… ***Montville Coffee, who have shown your support for Barung Landcare by yet again increasing your donation of coffee for Barung to raise funds!***



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The Barung Nursery 'babies' are all nicely settled in at Porters Lane (page 9), and the spirit of community service at the Bicentenary Lane site has been handed on to the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre (page 3).

More of Darryl Ebenezer's photos of The Big Move can be seen on the Barung blog.

Access the blog through the Barung website under NEWS, or go directly to the blog at

barunglandcare.tumblr.com

The Barung Family

BARUNG VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	*Heather Spring*
Vice President	*Peter Stevens*
Secretary	*Lin Fairlie*
Treasurer	*David Binstead*
Committee Members	*Eric Anderson*
	Kate Fraser
	Pat Fuller
	Bev Hand
	Diana O'Connor
	Steve Swayne

And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members

BARUNG STAFF

Barung Nursery	
Nursery Manager	*Wayne Webb*
Assistant Nursery Manager	*Dawn Worthington*
Barung Resource Centre	
Manager	*Darryl Ebenezer*
Administration Officer	*Fuschia Collard*
Barung Contracting Services	
Team Leader	*Matthew Bateman*
Team Leader	*Ed Surman*
Barung Projects	
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