BARUNG
LANDCARE NEWS

April - May 2010

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

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FEATURE EXHIBITION at 2010 EXPO

Barung Landcare's *Figs in the Forest* project will form the feature exhibition at the 2010 Maleny Wood Expo. It is part of TreeLine – a Sunshine Coast Council initiative to celebrate trees and their stories and inspire others to take action for the environment through art.

Although coordinated by Barung, *Figs in the Forest* is a true community project with more than 30 artists and craftspeople busy creating artworks for the exhibition in early May. Works range from paintings to online presentations, from glassware to prints and from children's stories to sculpture. Students from several Blackall Range primary schools are also busy creating their versions of Figs in the Forest.

Figs in the Forest aims to increasing local awareness of the important role that our magnificent native figs perform in the sub-tropical rainforests of the Blackall Range. Projects like this allow Barung to reach out into the community and involve people who may not otherwise come into contact with landcare and/or environmental issues. It is also a wonderful opportunity for Barung to build strong relationships with schools and school children by involving them in environmental artworks.

We are honoured to welcome Corrie Wright, Maleny-based artist and one of the TreeLine lead artists, to the Expo on Saturday. She will be doing a performance piece on the urban tree – sewing leaves with her pedal-powered sewing machine in the TreeLine marquee. There will also be TreeLine art activities in which Expo visitors can participate.

Thank you very much to Ken Munsie, local artist and ex-owner of Maleny Artworks Gallery for offering to hang the exhibition, and to Sunshine Coast Regional Council and the TreeLine team for their assistance with *Figs in the Forest*.

treeline people • art • science • nature

Barung LANDCARE WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Sunshine Coast Council

SUPPORT BARUNG by Volunteering at the MALENY WOOD EXPO

Our most important fundraiser for the year is the Wood Expo and WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW.

Barung Landcare is actively involved in finding solutions to local environmental problems around the Blackall Range. We also offer opportunities for members of our community to be a part of this quest by inspiring and motivating people to recognise and seek their own solutions to our local environmental issues.

Please consider giving a little of your time as a VOLUNTEER either over the weekend or leading up to the Expo.

You can download a Volunteer Registration form from our website: www.barunglandcare.org.au, pick one up from our office next to the Post Office, have one emailed: jonathan@barunglandcare.org.au, faxed or posted (phone 5494 3151 between 9 am and 4 pm)

P.S. We particularly need raffle ticket sellers leading up to the Expo weekend.

Community Action Grant - ENGAGING LANDHOLDERS

SUSTAINABLE LANDCARE by Jonathan Waites

Barung have been very fortunate in picking up a Community Action Grant (CAG). Funding has been provided by the Commonwealth Government acting through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of the Caring For Our Country program.

This project will fund five workshops and a community tree plant. It aims to increase local landholders' capacity in understanding and embracing the natural attributes of their land, leading to better land management decisions which will achieve improved biodiversity and habitat protection as well as enhancing production potential.

The workshops are planned to cover topics such as Revegetation (site preparation, planting and maintenance) and Soil Biological Management (see more info in the adjacent column). In most cases the workshops will incorporate a mix of theory as well as some 'hands-on' in the paddock, and culminate with a public treeplant on a local property, giving participants the opportunity to put some theory into practice. There is also scope for running workshops on topics suggested by local landholders.

If you think you may be interested in attending these workshops or have ideas for other workshops, please contact Barung on 5494 3151 to add your name to an Expression of Interest list or contact me at Barung or on ***0429 943 151*** or ***jonathan@barunglandcare.org.au***

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Tim Pilborough
JE Groves
Jon Hodgetts
Jeremy Townsend
Lyn Stevens & Roger Donovan
Shan Fowles
Rich and Reb Hungerford
Matthew Roy
John Arias & Rafaela Giebler-W
Narelle McTaggart
Rob & Boni Parker
Suzanne & Anthony Brown
Jason Searle
Jennifer Checker
Brent Fannin
Justine Bean
Amy Samson
Tim Cocks
Jennifer Young

WELCOME BACK TO REJOINING MEMBERS

John & Lesley Mott
Leonard & Margaret Hawker
Michael Farrar
Ki Cornwall & Rob Leathem
Lea & Jill McNicol
Grant Meyer
Paul Francis
Paul & Alana Shereston
Chris & Rose Twidle
Claire Parris
John Bateman
Peter Robson & Rika Tsuchida
Phillip Wiellson
Jane Longstaff
Don Burgher
Roger & Jill Winton

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

Donations to the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are Tax Deductible!

BARUNG CAG WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

STEPS TO REVEGETATION SUCCESS

Barung is arranging a series of Revegetation workshops for landholders:

- designing your revegetation plot
- preparing the ground
- planting the trees
- maintaining for success.

This practical series will be run on the one site so that participants can gain insight into the many and varied aspects that you need to consider before, during and after you stick a tree in the ground.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Barung to add your name to the Expressions of Interest list:

5494 3151 or ***info@barunglandcare.org.au***

UNDERSTANDING HEALTHY SOILS

The first of the two workshops in this series will cover an introduction to biological farming, including understanding soils and how they are critical to production.

The second workshop will cover the physical and chemical aspects of biological soil management. Participants will also gain basic skills in reading a soils test report in a holistic, integrated way.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Barung to add your name to the Expressions of Interest list:

5494 3151 or ***info@barunglandcare.org.au***

More workshops please ...
YOUR IDEAS WANTED

I am hoping to run more workshops this year (in addition to those mentioned above) and I'm calling for your ideas.

If you have a particular area of interest or an aspect of land management that you would like to explore, please email me at ***jonathan@barunglandcare.org.au*** with your ideas.

ACDC Course

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control

Barung is calling for ***Expressions of Interest*** from people wishing to do a one-day ACDC (Weed Spraying) course.

It is necessary to complete this course before a person can apply for a commercial operator's licence. A commercial operator's licence is required to legally apply herbicides on land that you or your relatives do not own or occupy.

When: May/June at a date to be decided (please indicate your preference for a weekday or weekend)

Cost: $350/person – this rate is well below the usual cost for this training

We need a minimum of 10 people to run the course.

To add your name to the Expressions of Interest list:

5494 3151 or ***info@barunglandcare.org.au***

NATIVE FIGS OF THE BLACKALL RANGE

Diana O'Connor

One of the joys of a rainforest walk in our subtropical region is encountering a large fig, a dramatic lattice of intertwining strands enclosing a hollow space or encasing the trunk of another rainforest giant, the crown of the fig emerging above the forest canopy.

In our area we have five species of strangler figs. All of these species can begin life in the crotch of a high branch, the seed having been deposited by a bird or bat. From this lofty crevice, the fig roots grow down until they finally reach the soil where they can secure more nutrition; after this more roots grow down and the fig's crown enlarges more rapidly. Steadily strangler figs embrace the host tree until the competition for nutrients overcomes the host and it dies. As the host rots, it supports ferns, orchids and other epiphytes, insects and fungi, all part of the complex processes of life in the forest.

The strangler species are the Watkins' or Nipple Fig *Ficus watkinsiana*, Moreton Bay Fig *Ficus macrophylla*, Deciduous Fig *Ficus superba*, Small-leafed Fig *Ficus obliqua* and White Fig *Ficus virens*.

Moreton Bay Fig Ficus macrophylla. *(Note the brown-bronze colouring on the underside of the leaves).*
[Photo by Eric Anderson]

White Fig is mainly found on the eastern escarpment and the coastal plain rather than on the Range. Watkins' and Moreton Bay Fig both have very large leaves, but the Moreton Bay's leaves are brownish to bronze underneath. The fruit of the Watkins' Fig can be up to 4 cm long, with a nipple at the end; the fruit of the Moreton is 2.5 cm across and more round. Ripe fruits of both figs are purple with paler spots.

The Deciduous Fig does not always drop all its leaves. Its fruit is about 2 cm across, purple with pale spots. The fig tree in the carpark outside the Maleny Swimming Pool is a Deciduous Fig. The Small-leafed Fig has the smallest fruit, about 1 cm across, orange with dark spots. White Fig has round fruit up to 2 cm across, pinkish brown with white or red spots.

We also have two species of sandpaper figs (sandpapery due to the short, stiff hairs on the leaves) which do not grow as stranglers. Both the Sandpaper Fig *Ficus fraseri* and Creek Sandpaper Fig *Ficus coronata* grow from the ground. Their fruit are roundish, up to 2 cm across, and turn reddish to purplish black when ripe.

There is always fig fruit in the forest. While most Small-leafed Fig trees will fruit between April and June and most Watkins' mainly between Sept and April, some trees of these species will fruit sporadically at other times.

This ensures a continued food supply for the many species of birds and other animals for which figs are a very important food source. Over 50 species of birds are known to eat figs, as well as Flying-foxes, who are the most important pollinators of white-flowering trees in eastern Australia. The fruit-doves are especially dependent on figs, as is the endangered Coxen's Fig Parrot. And of course many other species eat the fig fruit once it falls to the forest floor.

These facts make the planting of figs in our landscape very important. However, their massive size and their spreading, water-loving roots mean most fig species should not be planted within 60–100 metres of buildings and plumbing. If you have a small area and want to put in a fig, choose a Creek Sandpaper Fig (*Ficus coronata*) which grows as a shrub or small tree. However, it does like a moist spot.

Small-leaved Fig Ficus obliqua, with small orange berries.
[Photo by Eric Anderson]

WONDERFUL RAIN!

NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington

Well… we might have thought the rain would be finished by now. How wrong we would have been!

The vollies have learnt how to do both wet and dry jobs together. The banter in the potting shed increases significantly with the rain. You can just imagine, can't you!

Our stock is looking refreshed, green and ready to be placed in the ground so come in and visit. Rain seems to boost everything, us included. It certainly is the magic ingredient after those hot summer days.

HAY BALES to order

Efforts are being ramped up as we get ready for the Maleny Wood Expo on the May Day weekend. Many of our volunteers are very busy preparing stock for this ultra busy weekend. This involves blocking, tagging, pruning and fertilising the plants to ensure that they are at their best for the Expo. The rain has hindered our progress a bit, but that is the challenge of working in a nursery, I guess!

If your chooks need new bedding or if mulch is required, put in your order for hay bales! We will be selling the hay bales we use at the Wood Expo from the Expo site. Hopefully this will eliminate the double and triple handling of the bales that has occurred in previous years. The bales will be $6.50 each and need to be collected late on the Sunday afternoon (2nd May) or early morning on the Monday (3rd May). So put your name down on the list. You can pay for your bales ahead of time or pay us directly during the Wood Expo at the Barung Nursery tent.

WELCOME Green Army

A huge welcome goes to our Green Army ladies, Jenny and Ann. Jenny has been working diligently with us at the Nursery. She is on a very steep learning curve and is enjoying her activities. Thank you, Jenny, for your wonderful efforts thus far, especially in regards to your weeding activities! Ann is primarily involved with our Contracting Team and when she has been at the nursery her contribution has been fantastic.

Volunteer Week DAY OUT

Where would we be without our volunteers! During National Volunteer Week (which is from 10th to 16th May 2010), the Nursery is hosting a Volunteer Day on Tuesday 11th May. We are endeavouring to organise a trip to various localities on the Blackall Range where some of the plants that our vollies have produced are planted. This will give us all a 'day out' and these wonderful people will be able to see how important their work is, how their toil has a direct impact on improving and enhancing the environment.

If you have volunteered at Barung during the last 12 months and wish to attend, please notify Dawn at the Nursery so that catering arrangements can be organised.

Numbers will have to be limited, mainly because we need to manage numbers at some of the locations we'll be visiting, so please be quick to put your name down.

THANK YOU TO …

In Wayne's words, 'We loves you all!'. A massive thanks to all of the vollies.

Some are avid ***seed collectors***, without whose contributions our stock would dwindle. A special thanks to ***Diana O'Connor*** who has brought in species that are very popular.

Thank you to the people who bring goodies for us, including ***Clare Sluggett***, the scone queen, and ***Pamela Owens*** who always turns up at the right time with smoko. ***Gordon Halliday*** has also contributed to the feast.

Thank you to the foam box king, ***Noel Law***, who regularly turns up to the Nursery with a ute full of boxes which we recycle and use to pack smaller orders for our customers.

Another thank you goes to ***Jon Hodgetts*** and ***his friends from Nambour TAFE*** who have assisted us in weeding and doing a general cleanup of the Nursery on several occasions after the heavy rains.

The Farm Barn on Macadamia Drive deserves a special mention for the generous use of their forklift to lift a 'Bulka Bag' of material from the delivery truck to Wayne's trailer so that we could get the material to the Nursery site.

Thanks to ***Wayne*** for using his own trailer to deliver goods to the Nursery and to ***Noel Law*** who then used his 4WD to back the trailer down the steep gradient to where it was needed.

We have a team of avid tubers; these include ***Gordon Halliday***, ***Graeme Tosh***, ***Helen Killeen***, ***Helen Lavery***, ***Judith Potts***, ***Pamela Owens***, ***Trevor Sauer***, ***Noel Law*** and others who keep us busy with loaded trolleys of 'just-tubed stock'. Thanks to all of you – your efforts keep the ball rolling.

Our movers and shakers include ***Deanne Grace*** and ***Clare Sluggett***, ***Kerry Sluggett***, ***Jon Hodgetts***, ***Alan Bannister***, ***Jamie Slaven***, ***Pierre Figeira*** and ***Noel Denning***, who weed, block, relocate and restock our plants on an as-needed basis. Thank you for your efforts.

International YEAR of Biodiversity 2010

www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

International Climate Change Adaptation CONFERENCE

29 June - 1 July

Gold Coast Convention Centre

Co-hosted by Australia's National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, an international forum focusing solely on climate impacts and adaptation.

www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010

The 2nd International CONFERENCE on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses

8-10 July

University of Queensland, Brisbane

www.Climate-Conference.com

EARLY LESSONS IN REVEGETATING RAINFOREST in Montville's RUSSELL FAMILY PARK

Diana O'Connor

It is now a full two years since a group of residents began a revegetation plot in this park behind the shops at Montville.

Planning and Planting

After council ***removed weed trees*** from the area, we prepared the site with ***further weeding*** and then we planted.

We were fortunate to have four or five residual large rainforest trees at the site. These provided some shade. However, many rainforest species need considerable protection when young – shade and cool moist roots – so, on professional advice, we planted a large proportion of ***pioneer species*** for protection. These were mainly Bleeding Heart *Homolanthus nutans* and Celerywood *Polyscias elegans*.

In between, we planted larger and longer-lived species known to occur on red soils (the same suite of plants as in Mary Cairncross Reserve).

To ***screen the edges***, we chose species that would give good lateral shade by retaining low branches, to reduce light entry and hence weeds. Council provided lomandras to demarcate the edge for mowers.

Before and after at a site in Russell Family Park: between weed clearing and planting in June 2008 (above) and powering along in March 2010 (below left).

[Photos by Eric Anderson and Diana O'Connor]

Lessons learned

We had ***some losses*** of more sensitive species by planting them early on, but our successes far outweighed the losses and made it worthwhile to have taken the risk, as we now have many of these trees up to a metre tall in between the pioneers.

Growth in an area where there had been a well-rotted tree trunk has outstripped the rest. It appears that the ***organic matter and fungi*** in the soil in this area have been very important in assisting growth.

Mulching was clearly vital on this eastern-facing slope.

Lack of ***weed control*** was shown to be instrumental in the loss of trees in one area. They were shaded and out-competed by Cobblers' Pegs.

Another time we seem to have lost trees planted in a very wet period to ***waterlogging*** – no oxygen in the soil around the roots.

Maintenance

In a recent lecture, Dr Carla Catterall from Griffith University stated that many revegetation plots fail and the reason is lack of maintenance. It generally takes five years for the canopy to close over, after which weed growth is inhibited by lack of light. Until the canopy closes and trees begin to have stature, they must be cared for by weeding.

Even after this, weedy vines can get in and cause problems, especially Milk Vine, Morning Glory and Madeira Vine.

Dr Catterall also reported that by 10 to 15 years about half of the rainforest bird species will have returned in sites that have a good spread of tree species and structure. After this, recruitment of further bird species is slower.

A Community Effort

Our group is small but finds great satisfaction in our results. However our small numbers are limiting the rate at which this project can advance. There is opportunity to revegetate adjacent areas and council is willing to remove more weed trees for us.

If any of you could join us for some or most of our work sessions, it would be of great assistance. We meet at 7:30 am on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month and the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. We finish with a cup of tea or coffee and cake.

Upcoming working group dates:

Sundays: 18 April, 2 May, 16 May, 6 June

Tuesdays: 13 April, 27 April, 11 May, 25 May

More information:

Diana O'Connor at ***5445 7965*** or

plainswanderer@powerup.com.au

CURRAMORE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Susie Duncan

This 175 hectare sanctuary, owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, is located on the eastern side of Donovan's Knob near the end of Curramore Road. It forms the upper catchment of Little Cedar Creek which flows into Cedar Creek and then into the Mary River. The property is managed for the long-term conservation of indigenous flora and fauna in the area.

In 2009 Tony Bright and I had the pleasure of undertaking a wildlife survey at the sanctuary. We established on-going monitoring sites so that the fauna health of the reserve can be assessed over time. Further work will be undertaken to pick up species expected to occur in the reserve but not recorded during the limited sampling period.

A report from the survey is now available for perusal at the Barung office.

The reserve provides habitat for a diverse array of species typical of the sub-tropical rainforest and sclerophyll forests in this region. A number of threatened species were recorded there including the Golden-tipped Bat *Kerivoula papuensis*, Stephen's Banded Snake *Hoplocephalus stephensii*, Hip-Pocket Frog *Assa darlingtoni*, Plumed Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus plumiferus* and Pink Underwing Moth *Phyllodes imperialis*. The presence of these threatened species gives an indication of the quality of habitat in the reserve.

The main management challenge in the reserve is controlling lantana and a number of other weeds. Ecological burning will be applied judiciously in order to retain the sclerophyll habitats. Past logging has removed many of the large old eucalypts so the biodiversity value of big trees will only be recovered with time.

There is good habitat connectivity between Curramore and the Maleny National Park (Walli section) to the north, which also has high biodiversity values. Hopefully habitat links can be restored to connect with both the Conondale Range and Mapleton forest. Connecting up big blocks of bush allows wildlife that will not travel across cleared land to range more widely, enhancing genetic flow and buffering against major environmental events such as severe fires and climate change.

Two walks in Curramore Sanctuary have already been undertaken as part of the Barung Wildlife Walks series. If you are interested in exploring the property, please register your interest at Barung and we will organise another walk if there is sufficient demand.

If you are experienced in weed control and would like to volunteer to help manage weeds at the sanctuary, please contact ***Klaus Ronde*** on ***5494 4972***.

Clockwise from top: Susie Duncan with an Elliot trap for surveying small mammals; Tony Bright checking funnel traps along a pitfall line; Fawn-footed Melomys Melomys cervinipes*; Mountain Freshwater Crayfish* Euastacus urospinosus

[All photos this page by Wayne Lawler/AWC]

MORE PHOTOS FROM CURRAMORE SANCTUARY

From top:

Stephen's Banded Snake Hoplocephalus stephensii.
[Photo by Tony Bright/AWC]

Giant Burrowing Cockroach Macropanesthia rhinoceros.
[Photo by Tony Bright/AWC]

Little Cedar Creek. *[Photo by Susie Duncan/AWC]*

ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

FROM OUR PRESIDENT by Eric Anderson

Our Strategic Planning Day on Monday the 29th March was well attended by committee members, staff and invited guests. The facilitator, Dr Phillip Daffara from Futuresense, led all the participants through a process that helped us to :

- Understand the present forces of change that are influencing Barung's long-term future and map the critical uncertainties that may shape its future
- Generate scenarios and compare them to anticipate future possibilities and their implications for the 'business as usual' mindset
- Explore Barung's preferred future (2030) and back cast (imagine) the major actions/milestones that got us there.

It was a very interesting day for us all and will guide us over the next few months as we continue to envision the next 20 years of Landcare on the Sunshine Coast. Thanks to Pat for providing lunch and the Maleny Community Centre for the space.

Darryl attended the National Landcare Forum 'Landcare celebrates – 20 years of achievements and future challenges' in Adelaide with more than 600 other Landcarers from around the country and overseas. This attendance was made possible thanks to subsidies from the Burnett Mary Regional Group and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. It was a great opportunity to mix with so many people and contribute to the discussion about the future of Landcare.

Barung has been successful in its application to the 'Sunshine Coast Native Plant and Job Growth Project' through the Australian Governments Jobs Fund Round 2 of projects. $39m in funding was announced for 53 projects across Australia under the Local Jobs stream and Get Communities Working stream of the Jobs Fund. Our application was compiled with support from Green Hills and Natasha Wright. A great outcome for Barung, the Sunshine Coast and our environment. There will be more information about these exciting projects in coming months.

See you at the Maleny Wood Expo
on the 1st and 2nd of May 2010.

Maleny Garden Club's Annual

GARDENING ON THE EDGE

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 June 2010

9:00 am - 4:00 pm each day

A Garden Market & Six Country Gardens: Gardens include excellent examples of rainforest preservation & degraded land revegetation.

$15 for all gardens, $10 for 3 gardens, or $5 per garden
Under 18 years enter free.
PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES.

Tickets available for purchase at the Garden Market at the Indoor Activity Centre at Maleny High School on 12th and 13th June.

More information: www.malenygardenclub.org
Jill Rowland on (07) 5494 4700
or wittastore@serv.net.au

WHITE-HEADED PIGEON

RAINFOREST BIRDS by Eric Anderson

The White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* is a large pigeon with the distinctive combination of white head, neck and breast; slate-black upper parts; and slate-grey flanks, vent and undertail-coverts. The bill is red and tipped paler. The eyes are pale orange or yellow; the eye-ring and legs are red. The sexes differ, with the female tending to be duller and greyer. Other common names for this bird include Baldy, Baldy Pigeon and White-headed Fruit-dove.

These birds are unobtrusive and amongst the wariest and most secretive of the pigeons living in rainforests, although at times they perch conspicuously on dead branches protruding from the tops of isolated trees. Though normally seen singly or in pairs, they sometimes form loose feeding flocks in fruiting trees. Usually quiet, they call infrequently and only in the breeding season. The calls are low and mournful.

The usual habitat for White-headed Pigeons is tall tropical and subtropical rainforest, although they are often seen near forest edges. These pigeons mostly eat the fruit of rainforest trees, shrubs and vines. Local food plants include *Alphitonia petriei*, *Cinnamomum oliveri*, *Cryptocarya obovata*, *Ficus macrophylla*, *F. obliqua*, *F. watkinsiana*, *Litsea leefeana*, *L. reticulata*, *Neolitsea dealbata*, *Piper novae-hollandiae*, *Olea paniculata*, *Sarcomelicope simplicifolia*, *Syzygium corynanthum* and *S. crebrinerve*.

Within rainforest, White-headed Pigeons are mainly arboreal, mostly foraging in small trees and shrubs at lower levels and occasionally descending to the forest floor to take fallen fruits or to drink. They will forage in open areas to feed on the fruit of Camphor Laurel and Privet. They tend to feed more actively in the early morning and, more briefly, in the late afternoon.

In southern Queensland breeding is mostly from November through to January. The nest is usually hidden high in the rainforest canopy or other dense vegetation. Both sexes incubate the single egg for 26–28 days and the young fledge at 3–4 weeks.

Male White-headed Pigeon Columba leucomela.
[Photo: Eric Anderson]

White-headed Pigeons became rare in the late 19th century when they were shot for food and their rainforest habitat was reduced by clearing. However with the regeneration of some rainforest and the widespread plantings and subsequent invasion of Camphor Laurel, the decline in White-headed Pigeon numbers has been arrested. Replacing Camphor Laurel with a range of appropriate rainforest species will make fruit available throughout the year for these pigeons and see one less weed competing with our native plants.

Mixed Species Plantation Management WORKSHOPS

Managing Trees for Growth – Getting the best out of our trees with broader understanding of forest structure & responses to thinning, and why inventory & stocking rate are essential to tree growth.

Topics:

- Plantation forest structure
- Responses to thinning
- Annual Incremental Growth
- Edge & gap effect
- Estimating stocking rate
- Stand inventory
- Topography and growing environment

When and Where:

Beerburrum (124 Endeavour Road)
Saturday 17 April, 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Please book by 10 April

Imbil (Yabba Creek Road)
Saturday 08 May, 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Please book by 30 April

Fee: $35 per head, $50 per couple, group by negotiation

Morning tea and lunch provided. (N.B: please advise of special dietary requirements.) Bring insect repellent & wear protective outdoor clothing.

Contact: ***Carol Neal on 3425 2332 or 0411 873 324***
Email: ***carolneal@forestmanagement.com.au***

WILDLIFE WALKS with SUSIE DUNCAN

Monday 19 April

Booloumba Falls to Booloumba Ck (Camp 3)

10 km walk on track. Moderate to very steep downhill grades and one creek crossing (wading).
Rainforest, eucalypt forest and creek cascades.

Friday 14 May

Parklands Conservation Park, Nambour

5.4 km walk on tracks. Moderate to steep grades.
Eucalypt forest and rainforest.

Monday 21 June

Mothar Mountain, near Gympie

3.2 km walk on track. Moderate to very steep grades.
Rock pools, rainforest and eucalypt forest.

For all walks:

- Please book at Barung on ***5494 3151***. No fee.
- Park in the public carpark behind Maleny IGA and meet at the Barung Office (next to Australia Post) at 8.45 am to car pool; expect to return to Barung by 4 pm.
- Bring water, lunch, boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars, and togs if you wish to swim.

MALENY WOOD EXPO HAS IT ALL!

As the days grow shorter and the nights cooler, woodworkers of the Sunshine Coast and surrounds are putting the finishing touches on their timber creations for Barung's annual ***Maleny Wood Expo***.

On the 1st and 2nd May, the Maleny Showgrounds will come alive as the mobile mills fire up and the smell of fresh-cut sawdust wafts across the grounds, bringing our timber heritage into the 21st century with everything from chainsaws to fine furniture.

The Expo's ***feature exhibition*** for 2010 is Figs in the Forest – Barung's TreeLine project. More than 30 local artisans inspired by the Blackall Range's mighty rainforest figs have contributed works for the exhibition.

Stan Ceglinski will take us back to our roots as he demonstrates the ***age-old skills*** used by white settlers when they came to the Blackall Range in the mid 1800s to harvest the red cedars. And the ***mobile millers*** will bring us back to the present to the delight of Expo visitors – converting massive tree trunks into slabs and planks with high powered machines, camaraderie and friendly competition.

And this wood is transformed into a wide range of furniture and other items by our ***superb timber craftsmen***. On display will be lovingly crafted products from furniture-makers and toy-makers, musical instrument-makers and box-makers, whittlers and carvers and everything in between.

And all pieces are crafted from sustainably harvested native, weed and recycled timbers. You are guaranteed to find a style to fit your taste and budget.

'Live action at this year's Expo will include demos by chainsaw, trade and woodworking tool and equipment experts,' said Expo Coordinator, Steve McLeish.

'And we have more for the whole family this year,' says Steve. 'With a ***focus on youth*** we will have skatedeck-making workshops and skate-boarding competitions, stilt-walking and marimba workshops, great street theatre and loads more.

'With exhibits including eco-friendly building products, local produce and gourmet foods, environmental displays, local native plants, great food and much more, there'll be ***entertainment for everyone***!'

The Maleny Wood Expo is proudly hosted by Barung Landcare, with any surplus raised helping to keep the office and nursery open and staffed for the wider community. So if you can spare a couple of hours to volunteer over the weekend, please ring Jono Waites on 5494 3151 to discuss where and when you'd like to work.

Thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council, Caloundra Tourism and the many small local businesses for their ongoing and generous support.

For more information, contact ***Steve McLeish*** via

Phone: ***(07) 5494 3151*** or ***0428 674 335***

Email: ***steve@malenywoodexpo.com.au***

Website: ***www.malenywoodexpo.com.au***

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Jonathan Waites

A few of the many books in our local Sunshine Coast Regional Council library system that are well worth a look:

Ecological Pioneers: A Social History of Australian Ecological Thought and Action (2001) by Martin Mulligan and Stuart Hill. Dedicated to Judith Wright, this book reflects on a number of our ecological pioneers (Milo Dunphy, Ted Trainer, Bill Mollison and many more) as well as discussing the social milieu of the day.

Stones Into Schools: Promoting peace with books, not bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan (2009) by Greg Mortenson. Picks up where *Three Cups of Tea* left off.

The Roots of Civilisation: Plants that changed the world (2009) by John Newton. The story of plants that constitute agriculture.

Climate of Australia (2008) by Lidia Nowak. Published by the Bureau of Meteorology; all about climate through the ages and some more recent extreme weather events.

The Mud House: Four friends, one block of land, no power tools (2009) by Richard Glover. A long-term, humorous and inspiring adventure on a block of land just out of Sydney.

The New Self-Sufficient Gardener (2008) by John Seymour. An update of the classic self-sufficiency guide; European focus but worth a look.

Farming With Nature: The science and practice of ecoagriculture (2007) by Sara Scherr & Jeffery McNeely. A collection of essays by various authors covering key topics in ecological agriculture.

Gardens: An essay on the human condition (2008) by Robert Pogue Harrison. An intellectual journey into the importance to humanity of cultivating our gardens.

Cymatoderma elegans. *[Photo by SJM McMullan-Fisher]*

AN 'ELEGANT' FUNGUS

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

Recently I have been asked by a few people to identify what they regarded as a spectacular fungus. It is quite common and grows either singly or in clusters along rotting logs in the rainforest.

It is *Cymatoderma elegans* and has no common name. It is often funnel-shaped and is attached to its substrate by a short stalk. Sometimes it grows into more of a rosette shape or several fruiting bodies may grow together.

From above *C. elegans* looks greyish or with varying shades of brown in a concentric pattern; underneath it appears milky white. It is thin, smooth and leathery; often the edge is ragged and the underneath looks folded and wrinkled.

Because it is tough and leathery it lasts a long time and can reach up to 30 cm in diameter.

Ref: AM Young (2005) *A field guide to the fungi of Australia*. University of NSW Press Ltd.

TRANSFORMING A LANTANA THICKET IN A FROST-FREE ZONE

REVEGETATION 101 by Joan Dillon

Everyone's property is different but when it comes to revegetating there are some common principles and there will be some common challenges. First up, let's look at reclaiming an area of lantana thicket for local native vegetation.

Do it slowly! One section at a time, get it up and running and then move to the next, preferably adjacent section. This gives you an established boundary to work to and therefore reduced weed invasion.

For me, thickets of lantana are best dropped on the ground in spring or early summer, sprayed where it's needed, and then left to regrow somewhat. During this time at least some seeds, usually glycine, will germinate. The area can then be re-sprayed. Once it rains, and if there is further growth of lantana and assorted weed species, do a further follow-up spray.

By mid to late summer it should have rained sufficiently for there to be adequate soil moisture, weed growth will be minimal, and night temperatures will be dropping. Out of frost-prone areas, soil temperatures will remain fairly constant. Now is the time to plant.

Your young trees will have the best chance possible as weed growth will have slowed and competition will be reduced, particularly if mulch has been used. If you cut back the adjacent lantana, even with hedge shears, you will have a clear space in which to prevent the lantana from lurching back into your planted area.

Next season, tackle the next section and so on until the revegetation is complete. It takes a while but this approach does work and lantana is found to be manageable.

Early in the process, think carefully about the species mix and the plants you'll need to order. Flexibility is needed as some species may not be available. Even the managers of major projects frequently do not order their plants sufficiently in advance and end up planting whatever is available. The plants are frequently the least expensive and least regarded item in the budget. Maybe we should charge more!

As a private landholder, I've been in the game for about 12 years now. One lesson I've learned is that the least successful and most difficult to maintain projects are those which were externally funded and had to be completed within the funding body's timeframe. They come good eventually but preparation can be inadequate if the timeframe means the work needs to get done at the wrong time of year.

IMPORTANT REVEGETATION SPECIES SEEDING SOON

SEED ALERT by Diana O'Connor

This is proving to be a bumper year for seed production with some tree species. A number of plants that are very important for re-vegetation are due to seed in the coming months. If you know of trees of these species, but do not have time to collect, please contact me if you are happy for me to collect their seed for the Barung Nursery.

I see Pepperberry Tree (*Cryptocarya obovata*) coming up from bird-dropped seed in Russell Family Park at Montville, but I do not know of adult trees in the wild. Can you help?

There is always demand for Celerywood (*Polyscias elegans*). It is a good, fast growing tree that tolerates sun when small (and is used by birds to boot). It appears to be maturing early this year. Can you collect, say, at least 50 seeds, and many more if possible? It will continue to ripen over the next 3 or 4 months. We would also love seed from the closely related and difficult to come by Pencil Cedar (*Polyscias murrayi*).

Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) now has its small blue fruits on. It is a species that takes forever to germinate – well, a year at least. If you can find seed on the ground under one, that is best for this reason. Again, 50 or so blue seeds would be good, and more will be even better.

Over the next month, start looking for the ripening Rough-leaved Elm (*Aphananthe philippensis*) and Yellow Tulipwood (*Drypetes deplanchei*). The big old Oliver's Sassafras (*Cinnamomum oliveri*) that we collected from in Montville village has been removed by council, so other sources are needed. It should be ripe about now. Also ripening over the next month or so and need watching are Pigeonberry Ash (*Cryptocarya erythroxylon*), Jackwood (*C. glaucescens*), Black Plum (*Diospyros australis*) and Soft Corkwood (*Ackama paniculata*)

Some others to watch for ripening seed in the next months include: Yellow Ash (*Emmenosperma alphitoniodes*), Domatia Tree (*Endiandra discolor*), White Apple (*Endiandra virens*), Smooth Psychotria (*Psychotria daphnoides*), Bolwarra (*Eupomatia laurina*), Callicarpa (*Callicarpa pedunculata*), Crabapple (*Schizomeria ovata*), Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*), Sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*) and White Euodia (*Melicope micrococca*).

The diversity of our forest means that this is by no means an exhaustive list and timing can vary.

However, if you can help with collecting or alerting us to places we can collect from, it will be greatly appreciated.

We depend on trees on private land a lot. Small amounts of seed are valuable. Bring a leaf or small branch with the seeds, if possible, so Wayne can verify the identification. You can contact me directly at ***plainswanderer@powerup.com.au***

Seed from these species, among others, is welcomed by the Barung Nursery:

1. *Celerywood* Polyscias elegans
2. *Blueberry Ash* Elaeocarpus reticulatus
3. *Rough-leaved Elm* Aphananthe philippensis
4. *Bolwarra* Eupomatia laurina
5. *Callicarpa* Callicarpa pedunculata

[All photos on this page are by Diana O'Connor]

MANY PATHS TO REVEGETATION SUCCESS

Jonathan Waites, Sustainable Landuse Officer

Just as there are many ways to 'skin a cat' (at least that's what I've heard said), there are many ways to approach rainforest restoration.

Soil type, slopes, aspect (the direction a slope faces), existing vegetation type (structure – woodland, grassland, etc) and species mix (native or exotic) are just some of the known variables which will need to be considered when planning your project. So the methodology you choose will be, to a greater or lesser degree, specific to your site. And there is usually more than one method that could be used on a particular site.

Then there are the seasonal variables, the effects of which are much harder to predict but may have huge consequences for your success or otherwise. This means that what worked last year may not be as successful this year or the next simply because the season may not be as supportive of our efforts.

Good planning should be begun long before we ever put a tree in the ground. Weed control is obvious, but don't forget about soil preparation which could begin one or two years prior to planting.

Joan Dillon (in her REVEGE 101 article on page 10) raises a valid point about funding; funding is very useful but if the time constraints don't fit into your project timeline then you may be better off waiting until more suitable funding is available or adjusting your project plan to do without funding support.

Finally, talk to as many people as you can with knowledge and revegetation experience in your area before you start – it could put your reforestation efforts years ahead. If you are very lucky you will have a 'Joan' living next door!

Revegetation Books

Below are a couple of books on the topic of revegetation processes that may be of interest:

Subtropical Rainforest Restoration, 3rd edn (2008) by Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group, available from the group at PO Box 106, Bangalow 2479 or ***www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au***

Bringing Back the Bush: the Bradley method of bush regeneration (2002) by Joan Bradley, Reed New Holland. Available from bookshops and there are also two copies in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council library system.

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BOTANICAL INFORMATION Field Workshops

During April – August 2010

A practical site by site guide to understanding the local vegetation and geology of the South Coast Region. Includes detailed booklet outlining the relationship between the local geology and the vegetation in the area toured.

Sites visited: Coastal Wallum, Wet Sclerophyll, Dry Sclerophyll and Rainforest

Community groups e.g. Landcare, other local interested groups, local government and state agencies are encouraged to attend to gain a better understanding of their environment. Community groups free, agency staff $50.

Tours start around 9.00 am and usually finish around 3.30 pm. Minimum 10 people per group.

Tours will be held on a Tuesday or Thursday but we can cater for a Saturday group if requested.

Sites visited:

1. Sunshine Coast South & Hinterland
2. Sunshine Coast North
3. Gold Coast & Hinterland
4. Logan / Albert
5. Kilcoy region
6. Gatton region
7. Ipswich / Bremer region
8. Caboolture / Mt. Mee

More info: Ashley Sewell on 0404 859 294 or ***ashley@ashleysewell.com***

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Comprehending Climate Change

www.climatechange.gov.au

Healthy Soils for Sustainable Farms

www.soilhealthknowledge.com.au

Turtles of the Mary River

www.bmrg.org.au/information.php/2/106/270

FUN FUNGI Workshop

Friday 30th April

10 am - 3 pm

Presenter: SAPPHIRE McMULLEN-FISCHER
Cost: $66/person, incl morning tea & lunch
At: Brush Turkey Enterprises Office
468 Reesville Rd, Reesville

Places limited—bookings essential.

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Email: ***nursery@brushturkey.com.au***

A Brush Turkey Enterprises Education Event

IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR COBBLERS' PEGS

THE RECKLESS REFORESTER by Ino a'Lilbit

Been having a bit of a go down in our little rainforest revege patch. It's really small, but we're proud of it.

There are so many little nondescript rainforesty seedlings that I only pull out seedlings I recognise as weeds. At our place that means cobblers' pegs, bluetop, lantana, moth vine (finally I recognise it), mistflower. Oh yes, and those pasture legume vines, desmodium (velcro vine, for goodness sake) and the other couple of green ones that are hard to tell apart.

I pull out the bracken, because I've figured how to tell it from the big native fern that looks so similar (just 'shake hands' with the suspect – bracken feels coarse) and we seem to have quite a bit of the fern coming through. The yellowberry's getting a bit thick because it's spiky and I have to get back to it. It's not such fun to shake hands with.

Just found a bluetop with individual leaves 10 cm long. Unbelievable. The cobbler's peg plant next to it was taller than me. (OK, I'm short, but still…) Of course bluetop is used to treat tick bites by some people. Could be a few ticks around here, by the look of the place. I know a bit more about ticks and their various species and stages since I saw a great poster at the Maleny Hospital when I took my son in for a guinea pig bite. (We were trying to introduce a mature, somewhat aggressive male to our two previously docile males. Learned a lot about testosterone that weekend.)

Our newest guinea pig (not the one that bit my son).

Not bracken.

So back to the weeds. Only pulling up the weeds I know means quite a lot gets left. Actually, I must remember to bring my glasses down with me next time, and a pair of gloves for that yellowberry. I imagine a pair of boots wouldn't go astray.

Oh gee, I just pulled out a black nightshade and a big clump of soil came with it. Looks like that jumping ant nest that was here when we came 15 years ago is still active. Verrrry active.

I'm just going to try to spend a bit of time in the rainforest patch every few days to see what sort of impact I can have on the weeds while the ground's still nice and soft. It's just so exciting when I spot those new little plants coming through, and I'm quite sure most of them aren't weeds.

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Riverside Centre, Maleny

More than 40 book titles, posters, CDs, cassettes & gift ideas

www.barunglandcare.org.au/publications1.html

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Log in with your email address or email ***info@barunglandcare.org.au*** for more info.

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www.barunglandcare.org.au

Barung Members who wish to receive printed copies of the Barung News will need to *contact the Barung Office* to have their preference recorded. Please pass this information on to Barung Members you know who don't use email or haven't received notice of this newsletter. *Thank you.*

Please update your EMAIL ADDRESS on the Barung Membership Database Online at **www.barunglandcare.org.au**

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Shop 3, Riverside Centre

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

BARUNG NURSERY

Porters Lane, North Maleny

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Plant Credit Program

As a Barung member, with $250 you can set up a Plant Credit at the Barung Nursery that gives you a discount of 25% on tubestock, megatubes and some more advanced stock.

You can take the plants as needed in whatever quantity you require, subject to availability.

If you are interested in this program, talk to Wayne or Dawn in the Nursery.

Barung gratefully acknowledges funding & sponsorships from:

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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* 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.

GARDEN LANDSCAPES

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I recently received an invitation to visit a property where the dimensions of the garden were designed first and the house was fitted into the left-over space. It's no ordinary house but sadly it was in Sydney!

However, what a great idea where plenty of space was left each side of the house to make a bird corridor using large shrubs plus understorey plants and an occasional small tree. The front garden is densely planted with lomandras and other strappy flowering and seed producing plants to attract the local finches. Another feature is a series of horse troughs placed end to end to create a rill which moves water through the garden and provides habitat for frogs. I might try that one with a small re-circulating pump, solar-powered of course. The house itself includes plenty of energy-saving technology.

In many a large project the environment surrounding the buildings has come a poor last in the design and certainly the budget. An opportunity to create something outstanding well and truly lost. We really do need to reverse our thinking and, in so doing, create much more liveable spaces. We are fortunate in our region in that we often have sloping land and can make use of interesting topographical features.

In the meantime, while I dream up the next garden project, there is plenty of pruning to do; not so much of shrubs, but several trees have extended their branches a little more than is desirable. The practice of maintaining a dense, layered canopy with no exposed soil has meant that despite all the rain, weeds in the garden itself have not become a major problem. Flowers are a bit scarce due to the constant cloud cover but some bottlebrushes continue to produce blooms and keep the honeyeaters happy. The native violets, however, have just loved all the moisture, increased their density and are flowering prolifically.

The local *Banksia integrifolia* is coming into flower and will be a great standby in the months to come. It's a really useful small tree. The native ginger, *Alpinia caerulea*, is displaying numerous blue fruit and there continue to be a scattering of small blue flowers on the scaevolas.

Ferns really thrived during the wet weather. The hardy Native Binung, *Christella dentata*, is conveniently spreading across banks and equally hardy Rough Maidenhair, *Adiantum hispidulum* var. *hispidulum* is displaying its pretty new pink fronds. This is a good edging plant for shady spots and will spread of its own accord. It has been an excellent season for ferns generally but keep the softer ones in the shade and within reach of the hose for a regular light spray when the dry season comes. A fern garden under trees is an attractive landscaping feature. Add a few native orchids attached to the trees.

We're a creative lot up here and the garden is another paintbox, story or poem.

Native violets Viola hederacea *provide a delighful flowering groundcover in moist shady positions.*
[Photo: John Dillon]

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