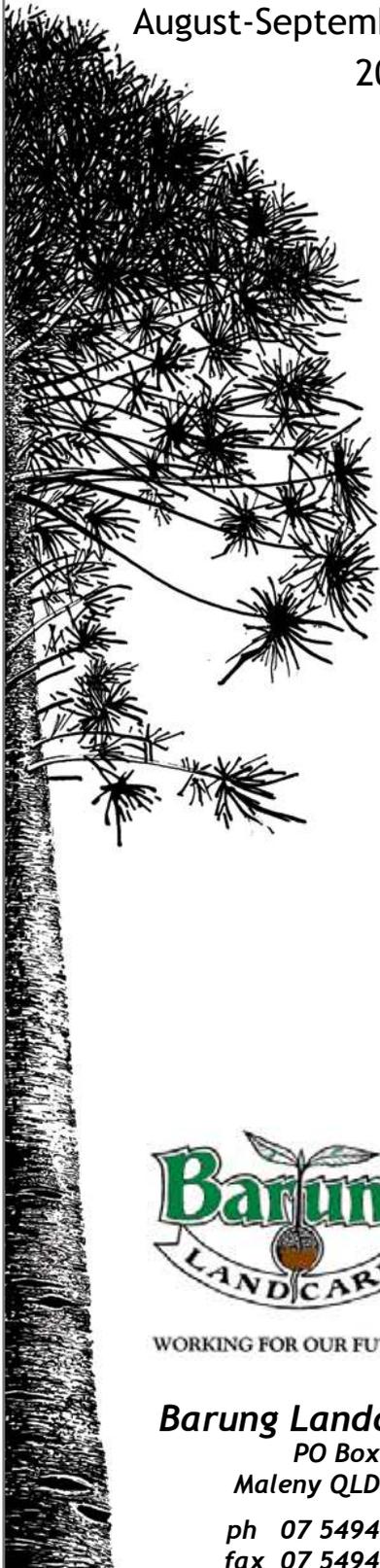


BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

August-September
2010



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Barung Landcare

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NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOPS

by Jonathan Waites

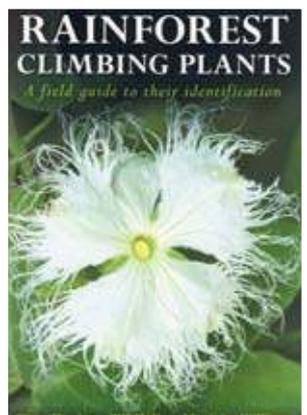
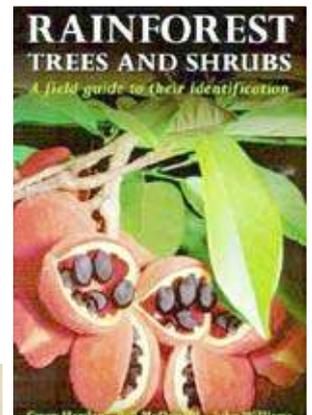
Even with excellent reference books, it can be tricky identifying native plants without the benefit of personal experience. Another successful plant identification workshop was held on Wednesday 28 July with our Nursery Manager, Wayne Webb, leading 14 participants through the intricacies of the 'red book'.

The 'red book', aka *Rainforest trees and shrubs: A field guide to their identification* by Gwen Harden, Bill McDonald and John Williams, has long been held as the rainforest species ID 'bible' covering eastern Australia. The book was upgraded and expanded in 2006 and its companion volume, *Rainforest climbing plants: A field guide to their identification* (the green book?) was published in 2007. (Both books are available from the Barung Bookshop at the Barung Resource Centre, next to Australia Post in Maleny, the 'red book' for \$42 and the 'green book' for \$40.)

These two books are more than just plant identification guides. They contain sections on what defines a rainforest, types of rainforest, subforms and distribution. This is followed by 'How to identify a plant' and 'Special features in rainforest plants'. An extensive glossary with good, clear line drawings is an excellent aid to understanding the plant descriptions. One of the features of the updated editions that I particularly appreciate is the inclusion of many of the exotic trees, shrubs and vines commonly found in rainforest areas.

Another book that is useful but which tackles the identification problem from a different angle is *From mangroves to mountains: A field guide to the native plants of south-east Queensland* (2008) by Glenn Leiper, Jan Glazebrook, Denis Cox and Kerry Rathie (also available from the Barung Bookshop, \$50). This book is divided into sections relating to vegetation structures eg rainforest, eucalypt forest, freshwater wetlands etc, with a colour code that matches flower or fruit colour together with good, clear photographs.

While these books are invaluable resources, learning to identify plants, as with any new skill, requires practice, practice, practice. The problem is that plants, like people, are not all exactly alike. They too have



quirks and peculiarities. Some closely related species have the bad taste to crossbreed, resulting in a hybrid that displays characteristics common to both parents. It's a frustrating habit but one that is also somewhat essential in the process of adaptation and survival.

If you would like to attend a workshop to get yourself on the right track, please register your interest with Barung Landcare (5494 3151). When we have sufficient numbers we will run another plant identification workshop.

SUNSHINE COAST NATIVE PLANT & JOBS GROWTH PROJECT

by Jonathan Waites

Our four Nursery Trainees (now called 'apprentices') will complete a Certificate III in Horticulture over the next 11 months while helping us with developing our new nursery in Caloundra (the George St Community Nursery) and redeveloping the Barung Nursery onto the new Maleny Precinct site. Their employment is integral to our plans to increase plant propagation and production levels significantly once we're on the new Precinct site.

All four employees have experience working with native plants in the Sunshine Coast environment. Ian Krosch and Luke Symons have just successfully completed a 16 week Green Army placement with Barung working on National Parks in our local area. They received high praise from the four National Parks officers who attended their graduation ceremony and commented on their diligence and commitment to the, at times, difficult and tedious job.

Oskar Cafarella spent time on the Barung Contracting Services team earlier this year and last year while still at school. He has recently completed TAFE studies as a Fitness Instructor.

Neal Rolley had some contact with Barung when he participated in a Green Corp Team based at Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group a couple of years ago. He has undertaken some tertiary study with Sunshine Coast University and has been employed on a landscaping project with Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

We are very pleased to have been able to offer these traineeships to four people who display a high level of interest in the natural environment and we are honoured they have chosen to further their careers with Barung Landcare.



Our four horticultural apprentices (from left) Luke Symons, Ian Krosch, Neal Rolley and Oskar Cafarella, joyfully preparing native seed for propagation at the George Street Community Nursery, Caloundra.

LANDCARE WEEK GOODIES

Landcare Week is just around the corner (6th - 12th September) and we will be celebrating with free plants and membership goodies bags this year.

Free native plants

To acknowledge the critical role native plants play in Landcare on the Sunshine Coast, 3 free native tube stock will be given to everyone who visits the Barung Nursery at Porters Lane, Maleny, or the Barung Resource Centre at the Riverside Centre, Maleny, on Thursday 9th September between 11 am and 2 pm.

Membership goodies

We are also encouraging everyone to renew your Barung membership or to join Barung during Landcare Week. If you renew, extend or apply for your Barung membership between Monday 6th and Friday 10th September, you will receive a Landcare goodies bag, the contents of which will remain a surprise until in the hands of the beholder...

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Eric Anderson

At our recent Barung Committee meeting we confirmed that the date of our next AGM will be Saturday 23rd October – how the year flies. It has been a tough year and likely to end with a small loss which is not unexpected given the continued difficulty with our movement to the new site on the Maleny Precinct.

I anticipate that we will need to find replacements for retiring committee members. Please consider contributing to the running of Barung as a committee member. Apart from a couple of hours a month attending the committee meeting, members could expect to contribute another few hours to the running of Barung. If you are interested, and would like more information about what might be involved, please contact me (phone 5445 7965). It would be greatly appreciated.

The 6th of August will be our 'official' 20th birthday as we received our Certificate of Incorporation on this day in 1990. The Landcare movement recently celebrated its 21st birthday which puts us up there as one of the early groups to be formed and, more importantly, still going strong.

We plan to celebrate our coming of age next year and what we have achieved to date. We will be setting up a small group to plan for this event lead by Heather Spring. We are looking for people who are interested in helping us with this planning. If you would like to help please contact Heather (phone 5494 2694).

You have an excellent chance to find out first-hand what's happening in Landcare as this year's Queensland Landcare Conference is being held close by at Caloundra, 15–17 September. Barung is assisting with the organisation and Lake Baroon Catchment Association has sponsored the Hinterland Tour. Find out more at:

www.landcare.org.au/CONFERENCE.htm

**BARUNG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:
SATURDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2010**

MEMBERS' SPECIAL

At the Barung Nursery,
Porters Lane, Maleny,
we are offering these
three colourful understorey species
for the very special price of
2 for one
until the next newsletter or
until stocks are sold.

These plants provide a lovely splash of
'quick colour' at this time of year and are
adaptable to most soil conditions.

Hovea acutifolia
Purple Pea Bush



Indigofera australis
Native Indigo



Oxylobium robustum
Yellow Pea Bush



CURRY PUNK

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

Towards the end of the extended dry period last year I was walking through a friend's property when we came across a huge dead stump which was more or less covered on two sides by tiers of an orange bracket fungi. These turned out to be the Curry Punk or *Piptoporus australiensis*.

The fruiting bodies are hoof shaped or semi-circular and look somewhat lumpy; they are orange when young but fade to peach or cream as they age. They can be quite large, up to 40 cm and rather thick. The under-surface is paler and covered in pale yellow pores. When cut the flesh is quite tough and yellow-orange and it produces an orange juice which has been used to dye wool.

Specimens have a strong smell of fenugreek or curry powder which gives rise to its common name. Its Latin genus name, *Piptoporus*, means a 'polypore that falls off'.

Curry Punk is known to occur on dead eucalypts and is often present after bushfires. It causes a brown rot.



Curry Punk on the stump. [Photo by Gretchen Evans]

WINTER COLOUR

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

The other day I was listening to the radio and heard a talk on the value of our gardens for birds. We all like to attract the birds for our own enjoyment but the speaker was pointing out that our native birds in many areas are actually needing gardens as their main source of food and shelter.

If there is so little habitat left this is cause for concern, but at least we can keep the birds (and other small animals) going for a while as more habitat is established through our revegetation projects.

Clearly some species will be favoured over others depending on the food sources we provide and the amount of territory required. Anything we humans do seems to alter the balance in one direction or another. My small property would not support a powerful owl but the linked properties in our valley do support a pair of grey goshawks which probably prey on the excess of some bird species in the gardens.

Over a period of one week, I have been fortunate to observe the following colourful visitors/residents: A green catbird feeding on the fruit of *Alpinia caerulea* (which is close to our deck), several pairs of grey fantails which nest here in winter, and a pretty rufous fantail. Golden whistler, spectacled monarch, white-eared monarch, restless flycatcher, willie wagtail (of course), varied triller, blue fairy wren, white-browed scrub wren, fan-tailed cuckoo, emerald dove and several others in that group, eastern spinebill, eastern yellow robin, and eastern whipbird. The list went on to include butcher birds, currawongs, our goshawks etc.

There's not a lot flowering in the garden but the fly-catchers seem to be enjoying an aerial bounty, the ground feeders have been very busy in the leaf litter, and our regular species of honey-eater (about five) have been kept going with a scattering of melaleuca flowers plus insects.

A diverse garden, especially if linked to the revegetation, can be a real and valuable haven for a wide range of birds, plus bandicoots, and in our case a family of swamp wallabies although the latter tend to keep their distance from the house.

We are really fortunate to have so many birds in our area. Europeans would be green with envy. Winter colour can come from feathers as well as flowers so make sure your garden can support as many species as possible.

BARUNG RESOURCE CENTRE

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

GEORGE ST COMMUNITY NURSERY

9 George Street, Caloundra

TUESDAY, THURSDAY

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

FAREWELL TO JUDITH



It is sad to say that a valued member of the Barung family is heading home to the Land of the Long White Cloud.

Judith Potts, who has volunteered in the Barung Resource Centre and Nursery since August 2009, is returning home to New Zealand.

Judith will be sorely missed in the Resource Centre on Thursdays as the administration volunteers have become a central element of smooth operations in the office.

Thank you, Judith, for all the time and effort you have contributed to Barung over the last year. The value of such volunteers such as yourself can never be underestimated. We wish you a safe and warm journey home.

WILDLIFE WALKS with SUSIE DUNCAN

Friday 27 August

Bellthorpe Forest

Approx. 4 km on tracks. Moderate to steep grades. Old-growth eucalypt forest, rainforest and creek cascades. This walk is part of the **Festival of the Walks**.

Monday 13 September

**Yaroomba Bushland Park &
Noosa National Park (Peregian)**

Total 5 km walk on tracks. Easy to moderate grades. Paperbark forest and rainforest, wallum heathland.

Monday 11 October

Currimundi Lake Conservation Park

3 km on tracks. Easy grades. Wallum heathland & coastal landscape.

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 (or 3 pm for the Currimundi Lake walk).
- Bring water, lunch, boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars, and togs if you wish to swim.

*Donations to the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are*

TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

MARKET PICK-UP AVAILABLE FOR PLANT ORDERS

MALENY NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington

How a couple of months changes everything. We now officially have a home! Congratulations to all involved and concerned in achieving the outcomes of the Maleny Community Precinct. We are in the process of organising some directional signage with Council to show where we are so that will be a plus when it arrives.

Out and about

Once again we have had a busy month or so with events. The Nursery had a stall at the World Environment Day Celebrations at the Sunshine Coast University on Sunday 6 June. The day proved very successful with many people at the event which shows just how people are committed to their environment. Environmental care is a grass roots issue and every person can make a difference... even those in suburbia, poor things!

We also had a presence at the Maleny Garden Club's 'Gardening on the Edge' over the weekend of June 12 and 13. Saturday was a cold and windy day but that didn't stop thousands of people participating in the event and visiting a number of gardens on the Range. I spoke to many people from as far afield as Ballina and the New England Tablelands in northern NSW and Bundaberg to the north. Our stall provided not only plants but also books, brochures and general information.

Apprentices now on board

Welcome to the new apprentices we've taken on board under the Sunshine Coast Nature Plants and Jobs Growth Project. Neal Rolley, Oskar Cafarella, Ian Krosch and Luke Symons are going to be Monday-to-Wednesday regulars at the Nursery and will spend the rest of their time with Contracting, the George Street Nursery and on other activities. We welcome you all.

We have finally organised a lot of things. Tidying up has been a priority; with winter upon us it is a good time to sort out 'stuff'. The Nursery has at last got its own brushcutter so the site is starting to look trim and neat. Two of the new apprentices, Neal and Oskar, have put in a huge effort weeding and brushcutting most of the site. Oskar and I sorted out the pots and tubes around the big strangler fig, tidying and cleaning up – what a difference!

I spent the rest of the day cleaning pots, tubes and trays and in the process found a new respect for the people who clean and sterilise the tubes for us. In particular Noel Denning does this job constantly with little complaint. Twice a week Noel holds the pressure cleaner gun above his head for long intervals and at this time of year it's a wet and windy job too. Not to mention the wear and tear on the trigger finger! A job well done. My mum always said, 'You've got to walk in some-one else's shoes before you can judge!'

Planning the new nursery

Wayne has been drawing up concept plans for the new site, which is very exciting. As Manager of a nursery you don't often get the

chance to set up what you want in a nursery from scratch. We are awaiting survey and geological testing results before anything concrete can be established. At the new site we will have a decent sized shade house, up to four propagation tunnels, growing and hardening off areas, as well as an office for the Nursery and a tubing area, so there's lots to consider. Wayne and the four apprentices will be doing a lot of the preliminary work so that will be good work experience for all involved.

Barung at the Markets

Our Nursery has plants for sale at both the Montville Village Market (second Saturday of each month) and Witta Farmers Market (third Saturday of each month). We are taking some of our wonderful tube stock as well as ferns and other more mature plants. At the Montville Markets we also take a selection of books and printed material which are of excellent value.

If you can't make our opening hours to collect plants we are only too happy to put an order together for you to collect at either of these markets. Just call Wayne or myself during the prior week on 0429 943 152, best during office hours. Many members have been doing this with great success, so this is another option for helping you to get the plants you require.



Raine See assisted at the Barung display at World Environment Day on the 6th June 2010. [Photo by Dawn]

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.

PLANTS AVAILABLE

at the Barung Nurseries

Look for the current plant lists on the Barung Website under the NURSERY tab

Maleny Nursery

July/August list now available, or go direct to www.barunglandcare.com.au/pdfs/retail_stock_july-august_2010.pdf

Caloundra Nursery

Coming soon ...



BROWN CUCKOO-DOVE

RAINFOREST BIRDS by Eric Anderson

The Brown Cuckoo-dove, also known as the Brown Pigeon, Pheasant Pigeon or Pheasant-tailed Pigeon, is a large (39 to 45 cm long), brown, slender pigeon-like dove with a very long graduated tail.

The sexes are similar in size and separable by plumage. The adult male is rufous-brown on the head, neck and underbelly. It is greyer on the crown and nape and with a cream chin, narrow streak beneath the eye, and strong pink tinge to the foreneck and breast. The rest of the body is dark brown, the bill grey-black. The iris is light blue surrounded by a red orbital ring. The legs and feet are a pink-red. The adult female differs from the male by typically having a distinct bright chestnut cap and prominent dark-brown scalloping to the sides of the neck, foreneck and breast.



Male Brown Cuckoo-Dove.
[Photo by Eric Anderson.]

Brown Cuckoo-Doves are usually seen singly, in pairs or small groups and occasionally in larger groups at food sources. They feed most actively in the mornings and afternoons. They rarely fly far when flushed, often only fluttering to a higher perch. Their flight is strong and graceful with easy wing-beats.

Their advertising call is a distinctive mellow high-pitched trisyllabic *coo-cu-woot*, rising at the end and sounding like 'did you walk?' and repeated several times.

Locally their habitat is rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest, usually at the edges, in the understorey along watercourses, or in secondary regrowth in clearings and along roads. They are often seen in shrubby weeds, especially Wild Tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*).

Brown Cuckoo-doves forage at most levels of forest from canopy to low bushes but rarely on the ground. They eat fruit, berries and seeds from a wide variety of rainforest trees, shrubs and vines.

They are quite acrobatic when feeding, often hanging upside down and using their long tail for balance.

Brown Cuckoo-doves are found where there is suitable habitat in coastal and sub-coastal areas of eastern Australia. They are also widely distributed in Sumatra and the Philippines.

The widespread clearing of rainforest and illegal hunting have resulted in their decline. Yet this bird, which was shot more than any other coastal pigeon, is still common wherever its habitat has not been fully destroyed.

Register now for the 2010

QUEENSLAND

LANDCARE CONFERENCE

Caloundra, 15-17 September

With the theme 'Celebrating 21 Years of Landcare' the conference will explore the progress, achievements and future opportunities under themes such as sustainable farming systems, indigenous landcare management, water quality, climate change, landcare as business, urban landcare, biodiversity, and more.

The three day program will include field trips, plenary sessions, interactive workshops, and a 21st birthday celebration for Landcare in Queensland.

Early bird registration rates available until 15 August.

To view the preliminary program and registration information and to keep up to date with the latest conference information - and to join the conference emailing list - visit:

www.landcare.org.au/CONFERENCE.htm

Sunshine Coast

Spring Wildflower Festival

14-29 August 2010



Free guided walks, talks, exhibits and workshops throughout the Sunshine Coast.

Program available at the Maleny Library or online (2.5 mb file) at:

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/addfiles/events/wildflower_festival_brochure.pdf

Book early as numbers for many walks are limited.

STOCK BUILDING FOR OPENING SOON

GEORGE ST COMMUNITY NURSERY by Kate Brooks

'Busy' ... no... 'crazy' is probably the best word to describe the set up of the new George Street Community Nursery at Caloundra. Thank you to the many hands that have helped out over the past two months, building the foundation for a successful native nursery.

When we first arrived on the site, it looked more like a jungle than a nursery. The site had been unused for two years. Earlier it had been used as training grounds for Cadet and prior to that it was a council depot.

We got busy throwing out green waste, cleaning pots, painting, rebuilding structures, fixing leaks in the irrigation, tidying up the vege garden and fence side gardens, and making room for our native tube stock.

The cleanup is winding down now with seed collection, sorting and propagating our new focus.

We are looking forward to opening for public sales very soon and will announce a sale date for the existing stock as well as some of the beautiful Barung native tube stock you all know and love.

A special koala habitat project is likely to be one of the first projects the George Street Community Nursery will be involved in, and for this we will be growing species such as *Eucalyptus microcorys*, *E. propinqua*, *E. siderophloia*, *E. grandis* – all of which are koala food plants and are indigenous to the project area.

Our stock list is almost complete and will contain species from coastal wallum and heath land through to open eucalypt woodland and rainforest. We are more than happy to take donations of seed, especially the more coastal species, but please remember to bring in a branch to confirm identification.

We have received a tremendous amount of help and there are a few people in particular I would like to thank:

- Robert, Cheryl, Stan, Jason, Hazel and Greg from Cadet
- Barung members Matt, Darryl, Eric and Diana for donations of seed and seedlings
- Jonathan and his team of Cert III trainees from Barung
- Smart City trainers Ian and Jane along with their two teams of Cert II trainees
- My five wonderful volunteers Michael, Philip, Barry, Jodie and Steve.
- Teachers and students from Caloundra High special needs class for building us a compost heap and seed smoker
- Sunshine Coast Council for cleaning up the outside gardens for us and delivering mulch.

BARUNG'S

GEORGE STREET COMMUNITY NURSERY

We are located at 9 George Street, Caloundra, inside the Cadet training facility.

We're open from 8 am to 3 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Feel free to come in and say hi as we are always open to new volunteers and visitors.

Phone Kate for any sales enquiries on 0457 498 544



Vegetable garden... turned, fertilised, mulched and ready for planting (top)

Potting up seedlings (Smart City, above)

Learning about cuttings (Smart City, right)



Sunshine Coast Council

Community Grants Program goes online for the first time

Applications for Sunshine Coast Council's September Major Community Grants round opened 29 July 2010 and, for the first time, can be completed online.

To find out more about the Grants Program and the assistance being offered to help make applying easier, sign up for one of the community workshops, information sessions or grant application clinics that are running throughout August and September in many locations around the region.

Applications for the current major grants round close **15 September 2010.**

For more information or to make a booking,

- visit council's website www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au (click on Community Grants)
- email grants@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
- or call 5475 7272.

REVEGETATING AN OPEN Paddock

REVEG 101 by Joan Dillon

There is more than one school of thought as to how to go about this task and much will depend on soil type and slope.

Regardless of the approach, it's important to avoid planting towards the end of the dry season (generally mid to late spring) when soil moisture levels are low and there is a risk of early hot weather. Generally avoid the hottest part of the year (mid-summer); it's too hard for both you and the tubestock. In frost free areas and on heavy clay soils with high moisture holding capacity, planting can often be done from latish summer through to June. Where soil temperatures remain relatively warm through the winter, young trees will have a chance to establish before summer weed competition sets in.

Some revegetators favour digging individual holes whilst I favour a single tyne ripper on the tractor. It's much easier on the back muscles. The tyne can be set at a range of depths but 20 cm seems to be adequate to open up the soil. For safety reasons ripping should not be done on very steep slopes and the soil moisture level needs to be judged also. If it's too wet for safety reasons, it's too wet to rip.

The whole planting area needs to be slashed in advance so that when planting takes place the lines can be seen. I usually space the riplines about 2 metres apart and plant the trees about 2 metres apart along the riplines. An alternative is to space the lines so that it's possible to use the tractor to slash between the trees for the first few years. The time to canopy closure will be longer but weed control will be easier.

Water will tend to take the line of least resistance and move down the rip-line. Roots may also take the line of least resistance and follow the water, so it is possible that the developing roots may not extend evenly around the growing tree. Concern about the spread of the roots is one rationale for the individual planting hole approach. I have not, however, had any unstable trees to date as a result of an inadequate root spread. On flat ground, it's probably less likely to be a problem but I don't have any flat ground so I can't comment!

The heavy soils on the eastern side of the escarpment are mostly 'self-mulching'. (Self-mulching means that when the soil dries after rain, it breaks into small fragments which lie loosely over the surface like finely cultivated soil, forming a cover or 'mulch'.) Once ripped, these soils crumble as a result of natural wetting and drying. After about six weeks, planting holes can be dug with ease down the rip-line. The usual process then applies – plant, mulch, water, surround tree with hare guard staked to hold it in place (stake the hare guard, not the tree). Hare guards can be made from chicken wire and can be recycled for some time. Place a second guard on top of the first if wallabies are a problem.

I use 8 to 10 litres of water per tree and that is the only drink the tree gets. Remember that open paddocks are subject to wind so transpiration rates (from the plant) and evaporation rates (from the soil) can be high. Reasonable soil moisture levels before planting and mulching after are both important. The trees should require no further attention beyond the inevitable regular weed control.

'THANK YOU'S FROM THE BARUNG NURSERY to

...**Doug Blanch** for erecting permanent poles for the Nursery flapper flags

...The Montville Marketeers – **Daryl Reinke, Craig Hosmer, Bob Philpot, Fran Guard, John Dillon, Joan Dillon** and **Gretchen Evans** – for continuing to operate a Barung stall every second Saturday of the month

...**Noel Law** for your continuing supply of foam boxes (he recycles them from the Co-op) and of course for your water tank filling capabilities

...**Alan Bannister** for fixing the wooden chairs of our outdoor setting

...**Dean Power** from **Maleny Rural Traders** for the discount you gave us on our brushcutter purchase

...**Gordon Halliday** and **Doug Blanch** for test-driving the brushcutter and starting on the clean up

...**Neal Rolley, Oskar Cafarella** and **Ode Claxton-Smith** for so patiently sitting under benches in the shadehouse and igloo and pulling out the dreaded flick weed

...**Clare Sluggett** and **Ruth Blanch** for your ability to seek out and fertilise any plant that needs attention!

...**Kerry Sluggett** for your enthusiasm in moving and transporting tubes around the nursery at very short notice

...the 'Tim Tam Queen', **Gretchen Evans**, who supplies those lovely morsels when most unexpected, and to **Alan Bannister, Gordon Halliday, Ruth Blanch, Helen Lavery** and **Clare Sluggett** for supplying various feasting goodies (we do do more than eat at the Nursery, just in case you're wondering! However a special mention goes to **Wayne** who, on a very cold, wet and miserable day, took it upon himself to go and get 'hot chips' for lunch. Alas, a flat tyre turned the once hot chips to cold ones very quickly, but the thought was there and that was what warmed our hearts!

...**Noel Law** for your coffee contribution – it makes for better days!

...The 'Strawberry Fairy', **Clare Sluggett**, for lining some of Wayne's Walk with flowering strawberry plants – bring on Spring I say!

...**Amber Worthington** for assisting with setting up the Barung stall at World Environment Day at the Sunshine Coast University, and also for making coffee – and consequently she has now volunteered to make coffee at the Witta Markets in coming months so come and taste test her efforts!

...**Eric Anderson, Diana O'Connor, Lin Fairlie** and **Raine See** for also assisting at Barung's World Environment Day stand

...**Lin Fairlie** and **Pam Watson** for being wonderful 'gap fillers' during the 'Gardening on the Edge' Festival – Wayne and I couldn't have done the whole weekend without your wonderful assistance

...and a special thanks to **Bev Coyne** who offered me a coffee on that cold windy Saturday morning!

**Keep an eye on the Barung website
for upcoming events and new features:**

www.barunglandcare.org.au

NOISY MINERS - MICKEY BIRDS RULE?

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

You probably know the Noisy Miner, a medium-sized grey bird with a black face-mask and bright yellow skin behind the eye. It is different from the Common or Indian Myna, an introduced species regarded as a pest, which is chocolate-brown and has white flashes in the wing when it flies.

However the Noisy Miner, also known as Mickey Bird, has its own pesky attributes. It forms colonies which tend to stick around in one area all year, driving out both large and small birds equally with its aggressive behaviour. The Bell Miner or Bellbird is another honeyeater with similar behaviour. These two species defend insect and nectar food resources in a particular area, effectively farming the resource in a sustainable way. Most other birds are nomadic for much of the year, coming into an area and perhaps cleaning up most of the insects before moving on.

The Noisy Miner prefers open grassy eucalypt forests and woodlands. It has probably lost a chunk of its pre-European habitat, but rural clearing patterns and urban development have given them a big advantage over many other native species. Paddocks with fringes of eucalypts and gardens dominated by lawns with scattered eucalypts and prolifically flowering native shrubs such as grevilleas and bottlebrushes provide a haven for these birds. In these open landscapes they can see other birds approaching and launch a mission to drive the competitors out. Short grass also allows them to spot predators. The eucalypts harbour psyllids, sap-sucking insects which secrete a sugary shelter around their body, providing a great sugar source when there is little flowering in the landscape. And the extensive planting of long-flowering, nectar-rich native shrubs in gardens gives Noisy Miners a great additional food resource. Many other native birds would love to utilise these same food resources but they just can't stand up to being mobbed by a big band of Noisy Miners.



Noisy Miner nesting in a treefern next to our verandah.
[Photo by Susie Duncan]

Noisy Miners were probably scarce in the Blackall Range environs prior to European settlement, only occurring in the most open grassy eucalypt forests. The rainforests on the rich volcanic soils and in sheltered gullies provided habitat for many fruit-eating pigeons, pademelons and other animal species. The wetter eucalypt forests supported a diversity of nectar and insect-feeding wildlife. Many of these animals are now less abundant. If we can discourage Noisy Miners we can support the conservation of the less common species.

Noisy Miners can't easily penetrate tight foliage so planting dense shrubby vegetation provides a great refuge for small birds which are usually the least resistant to the Miners' mobbing. If your property is on rich volcanic soils, consider planting local rainforest species instead of eucalypts. These species, especially the laurels, will provide a great food resource for fruit-eating wildlife. On other soil types, eucalypts may be better suited but try to limit the number of nectar-rich native shrubs you plant. Banksias would once have been the key understorey, nectar-rich plant in the hinterland but they would have only occurred in some habitats. Today there is a diverse range of grevilleas and bottlebrushes planted out through most suburban gardens. And lastly, you could consider reducing the extent of your lawn by plantings so that it is more difficult for Noisy Miners to maintain surveillance. Visit the Barung nursery for advice on suitable plants.

If all else fails you can pray for rain. For the last 3 years the miners have disappeared from our garden as the summer rains have progressed. Each year they have re-emerged after a few dry weeks, but not this year. It seems like they have been washed away. In their place is a wonderful suite of birds, both large and small. Bowerbirds, catbirds, honeyeaters, whistlers, scrub-wrens, thornbills and many others, are now free to forage, call and cavort without being dive-bombed by the pesky miners.



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WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

FACT SHEET

Soil Carbon Management & Carbon Trading

A Bureau of Rural Sciences publication, the 'Science for Decision Makers: Soil Carbon Management & Carbon Trading' fact sheet shows the important role that soils can play in reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Accompanied by the technical report, *Soil carbon for carbon sequestration and trading: A review of issues for agriculture and forestry*. Free access at:

http://adl.brs.gov.au/anrdl/metadata_files/pe_brs9000004182.xml

BARUNG REVEG WORKSHOPS



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Wed 11 Aug: NATIVE SEED Collection & Propagation

Wed 8 Sep: REVEG PLANNING & PREPARATION

October (date TBA):
REVEG PLANTING & MAINTENANCE

Book in or register your interest with
Barung Landcare on 5494 3151.

These workshops are being offered under our Community Action Grant program which is funded under the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country initiative.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Community Care Walk



*Fundraising Walk for
Barung Landcare and the Blackall Range Care Group
approx. 10 km*

Saturday 21 August

Meet at 8 am at Cooke Park (middle of town, near new bus stop) for bus transport to start of walk at the Big Barrel. Walk via Mountain View Road, McCarthys Road and Bunya Street. Return approx midday to Tesch Park for sausage sizzle and band.

Walk fee/charity donation:

\$20 (plus one-off \$20 Festival registration which covers all walks)

To book: **Festival Hotline on 0428 828 566**

Organised by: **Maleny Apex**

More info: www.festivalofthewalks.com.au



Send a 'Save the Cassowary' postcard - available from the Barung office - to Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett. More info: www.savethecassowary.org.au



Sunshine Coast Conservation Forum 2010

'Biodiversity - Bridging the Gap'

Exploring our challenges for biodiversity conservation in our region and beyond, including fungi conservation, riparian and bush rehabilitation (techniques and habitat considerations), partnerships for success, innovations in weed management, regional fauna trends and threatened species, cultural landscape, and monitoring and evaluation.

Buses from: **Maleny, Landsborough, Mapleton, Nambour, Noosa and Coolum**

When: **Saturday 7 August 2010, 8:30 am to 4 pm**

Where: **Lake Kawana Community Centre**

Entry: **Free, includes lunch**

More info: **5475 7339 or check out 7 August on the Events Calender on the Council website**
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

To book: customerservice@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
or (07) 5475 8501



Early bird rate if booking before 15 August.

2010 International Kids Teaching Kids Coastal Conference

17-19 October, Caloundra

The largest Kids Teaching Kids event for the year will take place for students aged 10 to 17 years old from every Australian State and Territory and countries around the world at Caloundra.

More info: **Cathy Oke on 03 9329 2726 or**
Cathy@kidsteachingkids.com.au

Visit: www.kidsteachingkids.com.au

Electric Vehicle and Smart Grid Conference

21 October, Brisbane

Looking at the short and long term consequences for all stakeholders of EVs arriving on the Australian market. Parallel conference stream on the Smart Grid.

More info: www.evconference.com.au

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"THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT"

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Wendy Gleeson
Cherise Walmsley
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CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



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

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

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And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members

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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* 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.