

# BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

December 2007 - January 2008



*Newsflash... Barung Landcare at Australia Zoo for Steve Irwin Day November 15...*

## CRIKEY! What a Team!

*by Fuschia*

Well done to everyone from Barung who put together the fantastic educational displays and interactive workshops about 'local landcare' at Australia Zoo. Everybody loved it!

Wayne and Dawn, with Max's help, ran hands-on workshops on 'How to Pot Up Native Tubes and Native Seeds'.

We had the Barung Bookshop and info table with Val, Annette and Jane wooing the crowds, alongside the ever-smiling Kristine, Emma and Sherryn from Landcare Queensland with their books and display.

A crowd of people were lined up all day at the Barung display for a chance to win Mary River Turtle chocolates (proudly made by the Tiaro Landcare team) or an environmental poster if they could name or learn the names of two of our local endangered species from the Land for Wildlife posters. Even little Bob Irwin tried his luck.

It was also a fantastic opportunity for us to work alongside and network with Australia Landcare, who were kept very busy all day handing out Wollemi pines!

With a crowd of around 5000 in the zoo that day, I was impressed by the willingness and enthusiasm of everybody we encountered to find out more about their local environment, and that included the Australia Zoo staff.

Thanks everyone! You Little Beauties!

(Also see the 'Thank You' list on page 14 of this issue.)



*ABOVE: Staff and vollies have a lively time at Steve Irwin Day. Annette Lawniczak (Vollie of the Year!), Jane Williamson (Volunteer Coordinator), Landcare Man (from Landcare Australia), Dawn Worthington (Nursery Assistant), and the one and only Val Phillips (Barung volunteer).*



*RIGHT: Bob Irwin discusses local endangered species with Fuschia.*

## OUR INVALUABLE VOLLIES!

*by Jane Williamson*

*Barung Volunteer Coordinator*

(extracted from the 2006/07 Barung Annual Report)

In the last financial year, our volunteers contributed more than 6000 hours in many areas such as:

- **Nursery** – seed collecting, preparing seeds, sowing, tubing, weeding, weekend work in retail, lots of handyman work such as stacking timber, installing water tanks, mowing, and the list goes on.
- **Management Committee** – attending regular meetings over the year, providing organisational oversight and worrying about Barung's strategic direction.
- **Resource centre** – general office work, customer service, banking, telephone enquiries, library, postage, updating our membership database, book shop sales and re-ordering, and designing and making cards for sale.
- **Events** – representing Barung and attending the Barung display at a wide variety of regional events.

The value of the work done by our volunteers really cannot be counted and should never be underestimated. There is always a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie and many connections and friendships have blossomed here, bridging generational and social gaps.



## IN THIS ISSUE

Steve Irwin Day at Australia Zoo.....	1
Our invaluable vollies .....	1
New Members.....	2
BUNYA DREAMING invitation .....	3
Barung MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE members.....	4,5
Green Corps.....	6
CONTRACTING SERVICES: Maintenance .....	7
SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE: Our bit of 'dirt' .....	8
WILDLIFE WANDERINGS: Leaf cuts & scribbles.....	9
WEED WATCH: Rogue gingers.....	10
RESOURCES: Weeds, Sustainability.....	10, 14
NURSERY NOTES: Good season for seed .....	11
ORNAMENTAL GARDEN: Windbreaks .....	11
PLANT PROFILE: Kidney Weed.....	12
Look out for privet fungus.....	13
THANK YOU TO .....	14
TURKEY TANGENTIAL: Carbon Mining .....	16,15

## DEADLINE - Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Jan

for Febuary-March 2007

**Barung News contributions**

Barung Landcare...



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

**THANK YOU**

## Opening Hours

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY** 8.30 am - 4.00 pm  
Barung Nursery & Resource Centre/Office

**SATURDAY** 9.00 am - 12.00 pm  
Barung Nursery only

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Val Phillips)

Jennifer Harwood	Steve & Anne Robbins
Bryan & Helen Taylor	Donna Cervantes
Anita Moore	Peter & Sandra Cooke
Ben Sheppard	Mal McKenna
Win Butterworth	Mark & Caroline Knight
Sameer Kulkarni	R Cantwell
Janet Askin	Pamela Maclean
Laurie Elshaug	R & J Gardiner
Robert & Diane Hobson	Anthony & Karla Pizzica
Lynda James	Anne Delmas
John & Jo McKenzie	G & F Bradford
Jim & Patricia Laundry	Susan Exley
Sharon	Gary Hill
Ken Bragg	Michael & Glenys
John Thynne & Jean	Sinclair
Williams	Michael Scott
David & Sally Garthore	R Sunter
Gail Jordan	Scoty Campbell
Tom Coulstock	Jason Carmichael
Norma Jonker	Errol & Paula Richardson
D & B Burke	Kate Crawford
Keith Dodds	Ruth Law
Raymond & Margaret von	Phil May
Konigsmark	Keith Valentine
Paul & Melissa Provic	Martina Gogarty
Yasmin Caelli	Robert & Cheryl
Paul & Chrissie Ray	Andrews
Barbara McAlpine	Blair & Nicole
Chris Mason & Jenny Gill	McNaught
Robyn Martin	Lyn Filmer
Ivan & Amanda Hamson	Brown Family

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT**

## Barung gratefully acknowleges funding & sponsorships from:



Australian Government Water Fund  
Community Water Grants



Threatened Species Network



An Initiative of the Maleny Credit Union



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



Australian Government



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



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

# BUNYA DREAMING

*Bev's and Barung's Bunya Dreaming is on again.*

Dear Barung Landcare Members,

Our inaugural Bunya Dreaming, held at Lake Baroon on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2007, was a great success, so we're doing it again on ...

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

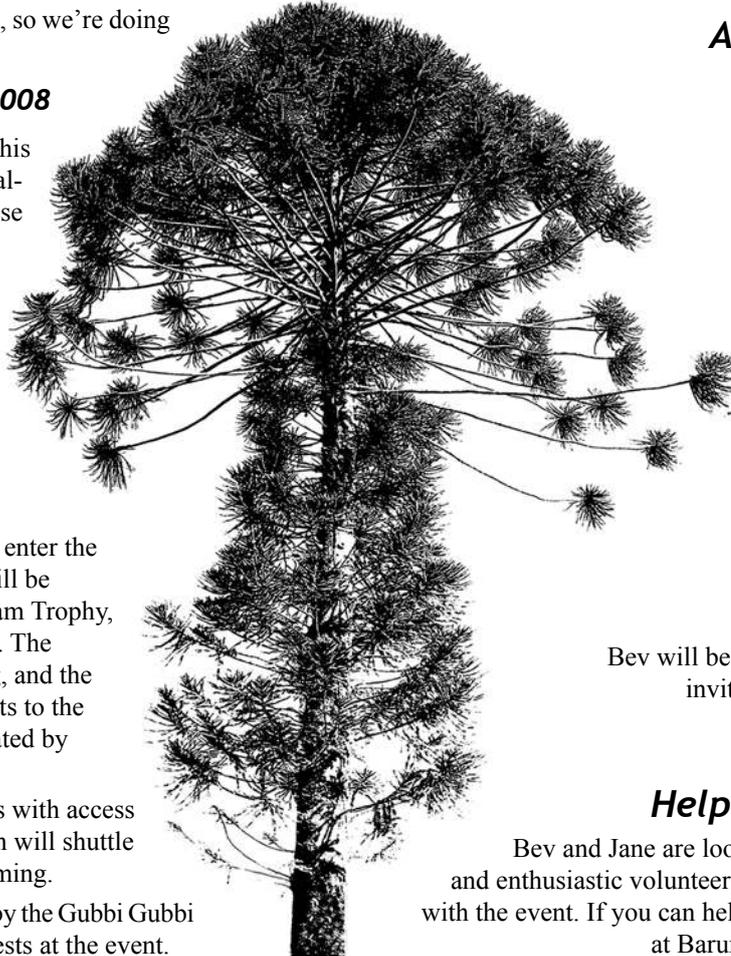
We will be starting earlier in the day this time. Once again, Bev is issuing 'challenges' for people to participate in. These will be:

1. Bunya Gathering
2. Bunya Shucking
3. Bunya Throwing
4. Bunya Art
5. Bunya Cooking
6. Plant Species ID
7. Fish and Frog Species ID
8. Story-telling

You need to make a donation of \$2 to enter the challenges. Only those who donate will be eligible to compete for the overall Team Trophy, currently held by Barung Contracting. The challenges are great for team building, and the winning team will have bragging rights to the Bunya Dreaming Trophy, kindly donated by Councillor Dick Newman.

Councillor Newman is also helping us with access to the 'Youth on the Move' bus, which will shuttle people between Barung and the Dreaming.

The final ceremony at dusk will be led by the Gubbi Gubbi Dance Troupe and will include all guests at the event.



**Attendance is by invitation only.**

**As members of the Barung Landcare Family, you are cordially invited to attend!**

Please call Barung on 5494 3151 for more details and to secure your place as numbers will be limited.

Bev will be sending out further message invitation sticks in early January.

## **Helping hands needed**

Bev and Jane are looking for some ready, willing and enthusiastic volunteers to come along and help out with the event. If you can help in any way, please let Jane at Barung know as soon as possible.



## **BARUNG APPRECIATES MIM!**

At the 2007 Barung Landcare AGM, Heather Spring presented Mim Coulstock with a tawny frogmouth sculpture in appreciation of Mim's years of invaluable contribution to the workings of Barung Landcare.

Volunteer of the Year awards were presented with many thanks to Annette Lawniczak, Fran Guard and Bob Philpot.

## **PREP CLASS VISIT**

After a walk along the Obi Boardwalk to see what can be achieved by planting and maintaining local native plants, the Prep class from the Ananda Marga River School visited the Barung Nursery to buy plants for their new animal-attracting garden at Prep.



# Barung's MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## 2007-2008

### *Heather Spring, President*

Over the past 20 years in Maleny I have watched the development of the region with interest and concern. I am a strong advocate of sustainable usage and conservation of natural resources. Together with my husband, Ken, I run a geological consultancy business. I am committed to lifelong learning and believe that education is the key to changing agricultural practices and promoting community conservation and landcare practices. Barung is entering an exciting phase and I looking forward to assisting Barung in moving to its new location and becoming a strong, relevant, sustainable organisation within the hinterland.



### *Peter Stevens, Vice President*

I operate a small beef breeding farm outside Maleny with cottage accommodation for visitors and tourists. I am currently President of Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, a position I have held for five years. I have a degree in Agricultural Science and more than fifteen years experience in a broad range of management positions. My interest in the environment and landcare stems from my desire to manage my own property in a responsible but practical way to achieve balanced outcomes. I am actively involved in on-ground projects at my own property. I bring a landholder's perspective to Barung, and believe in taking a strategic approach to resolving landcare issues.



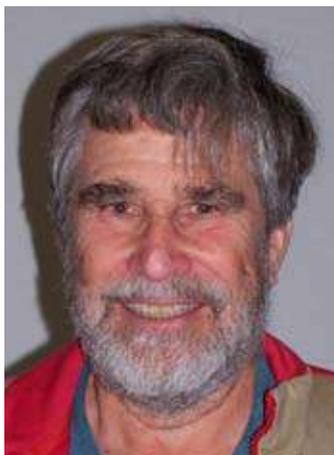
### *Lin Fairlie, Secretary*

After a career in teaching and Environmental Science I have lived in Maleny for 10 years. Barung Landcare has been an important part of my life in that time as the need for improved natural resource management becomes more and more evident. Barung is more than a Landcare group and its influence extends into all sections of the community as Landcare is really about people. Improved land management is a spin off, as is habitat protection and the return of natural vegetation in place of weeds. The future of Barung, after recent difficult times financially, is increasingly bright and I look forward to being part of that future.



### *Eric Anderson*

I have been a member of the Barung Landcare Management Committee for four years, and I am keen to continue making a contribution to this marvellous organisation. I retired four years ago from the position of Manager, Landscape Management with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. My research over 20 years covered habitat evaluation and monitoring the impacts of grazing. Agricultural Science was my primary training, with further studies in Rangeland Science during three years in South Africa. I am currently Convenor of Birds Australia, Southern Queensland, and I am a member of a number of professional organisations, such as the Ecological Society of Australia and the Australian Rangeland Society.



### *Pat Fuller*

As the Co-ordinator of the Blackall Range Grower's Market recently started up in Witta, I am passionate about generating interest in locally grown produce here on the Range or nearby and in sourcing and bringing this produce and products to the community. I have an abiding interest in organic gardening, and for three years I operated an Organic Farm Produce shop in Brisbane. I have been involved in the management and administration of a number of community-based activities before moving to our farm here four years ago. Other interests include water conservation and the protection and enhancement of our environment. As a member of the Management Committee I hope to contribute my enthusiasm and commitment to support the dedicated group at Barung wherever possible and, of course, a willingness to listen and learn!



### *Matt McIntyre*

I have a background in Land Use Planning, Natural Resource Management and Environmental Assessment. My technical science background is in land degradation (soil and water management), although much of my work over the last 15 years has been in policy and community development approaches to land use planning and environmental management. Over the last 10 years I have worked with UN programmes and multi-lateral and country donor agencies in the Asia-Pacific region. Most recently I have worked with several Pacific Island countries designing and implementing sustainable land management projects, many incorporating Landcare-type approaches to landscape analysis and community engagement. Back in south-east Queensland I am keen to explore means to better incorporate NRM principles and policies in land use planning systems. I use GIS for much of my work and am keen to assist with its use in the 'Barung area' for NRM and planning purposes.



### **Kate Fraser**

Eight years of managing a rural property, including removing weeds and revegetating degraded areas, has given me an appreciation of on-ground activities and native vegetation in this area, and an understanding of Barung’s customer needs. Exciting times are ahead with a proposed location move which will allow for Barung’s operations to expand. During my four years on the committee I have been exposed to the workings of Barung and the wider Landcare community, experience which will enable me to assist Barung in maintaining its underlying principles during this time of change. I also have business, communication and project management experience.

### **Diana O’Connor**

I am a retired medico and have been a bushwalker and amateur naturalist for many years. These interests have led me to membership of the Queensland Field Naturalists Club, Birds Australia, and The Society for Growing Australian Plants. I am very interested in the protection of remnant vegetation and rehabilitation of degraded areas. I have been a member of Barung for six years and have been active in procuring local seed for the Nursery. I believe in the conservation values and landcare ideals of Barung and I would like to contribute more to the organisation.

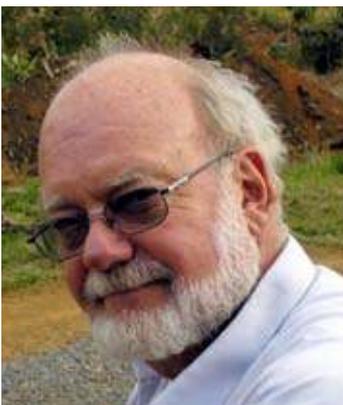


### **Clayton Stokoe**

My interest in Barung is to have an input and to influence the ‘on-the-ground reveg’ side of Barung’s activities. I used to be the part-time reveg officer for Barung, and had done a few projects prior to that based around ecological restoration. I now run a stimulating seed collection business that supports large scale revegetation projects all over the eastern states. It makes me sad to see the reduction in our valuable wallum on the coast and rainforest remnants here in the hills. It is my passion to work for the conservation and replacement of those resources.

### **Steve Swayne**

I have lived in the Maleny area since 1999, on acreage properties and in town, and have been involved in many local issues of social and environmental concern. I have had 20 years of experience in logistics, management and maritime science working for the Navy in the hydrographic surveying of Australia’s tropical waters. I recently spent six years as a Director of Maleny Credit Union. I am interested in the responsible management of our local waterways, riparian areas and remnant vegetation. I am keen to see the propagation of native flora from our local region and revegetation and restoration of rainforest habitat. As part of the management team I look forward to participating in the relocation of Barung to more suitable premises from which the nursery activities and restoration projects can be expanded.



### **John Wightman**

With my wife Waltraud I have converted a hoop pine forest near Maleny into a 10 acre native flower farm, and gained considerable hands-on experience in propagation, cultivation, weed and plant pathogen management in the process. My background is in the development and extension of pest management technology to improve productivity for smallholder farmers in Africa and Asia, using extension processes such as Participatory Technology Development (Landcare by another name). Barung faces exciting opportunities both locally – as a potential horticultural wonderland that might feed the wider region during times of drought – and internationally, in extending Barung’s information banks and experience to aid landowners in Asia and the Pacific Nations. As an experienced exponent of a time-proven methodology for change management (Total Quality Management), I would like to help steer Barung into a sustainable future through this time of change.

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## **A DAY AT DILKUSHA**

*by Fuschia*

Thanks to Nick Clancy, Land for Wildlife officer with Caloundra City Council, and to all from Dilkusha for the invitation to visit this amazing Land for Wildlife property in September 2007. The residents of Dilkusha are following a 5 year plan on a large regen and reveg site. Wow, what a vision and what commitment. True Blue Landcarers! Thanks for the opportunity to see your beautiful property.

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## **LANDCARE IS TAX DEDUCTABLE!**

You can claim a tax deduction for any money spent on landcare activities. Check out this website:

**[www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/get\\_involved/incentives/incentive.php?name=Tax+deductions+for+landcare](http://www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/get_involved/incentives/incentive.php?name=Tax+deductions+for+landcare)**

# Good job GREEN CORPS!

Joshua Gray

Green Corps Team Leader

Working with all the participants in the Maleny Green Corps crew was fantastic. It was also a pleasure to meet the volunteers and employees at Barung and to see how much of a difference we can make towards the natural environment when we are all working towards the same goal.

The Green Corps participants successfully completed their Certificate I and also half of their Certificate II in conservation and land management whilst working towards creating a better habitat for the koalas in the Maleny area. The participants also completed two minor projects creating nest boxes for parrots and working at Rainbow Beach with Queensland Marine Parks and Wildlife placing 'Green zone' signage in that area.

Among their other contributions, Green Corp planted over 1200 trees along London Creek in a Voluntary Conservation Agreement area. They also did some planting and a fair bit of weeding on the IGA Connection Site at the Showgrounds and along the Boardwalk, and planted about 100 trees on a slope behind the Croquet Club at the Showgrounds. (Barung donated the trees and undertook the planting as a community service, and the Croquet Club will maintain the site.)

On behalf of the Brisbane CVA team, we wish all the Green Corp participants the best for the future; I hope they all find enjoyment in their work.

# LETTERS

## Greencorp a great help

Hi Josh of Greencorp,

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks for your work at Conondale. I have spoken to William and he said you did a great job. It really helps our environmental efforts to get an extra helping hand now and then. It also makes our task seem a little less daunting. Give the team our thanks and appreciation. Kind regards,

Di Collier, Conondale

## Croquet club appreciates planting

Dear Manager, Barung Nursery,

Thank you for planting the creek bank next to our Croquet courts recently with so many natives. It will be enjoyable watching the plants grow and seeing the birds and other wildlife which in time they will attract.

We would be interested in knowing the names of the plants, and would like to pick up a list when next I visit your nursery, if possible. Thank you again,

Kath Smith, Range Croquet Club, Maleny

*The Green Corp team with supervisors at their recent graduation: Steve Mallet (first Team Leader), Isaac Stenz, Joazy Reader, Sam Schmidt, Dylan Passmore, Alister Holland, and Josh Gray (second Team Leader).*

[Photo: Fuschia]



## Christmas Gift Ideas

at Barung Landcare

Give a little joy while you support Barung Landcare and the future of the Blackall Range and environs.

- PLANTS from the NURSERY
- BOOKS from the BOOKSHOP
- GIFT VOUCHERS
- HOLLOW LOG HOMES
- ADOPT-A RAINFOREST-TREE
- sponsor the planting of a native rainforest tree in your friend's name



# A PARABLE OF BUSH REGENERATION

*CONTRACTING SERVICES* by *Brendan Stephen*

*A shout-out to the great custodians of this land, the Gubbi Gubbi, those who looked over this place for countless generations, who have been here since time immemorial. Acknowledgement given to the dedication and commitment of the Barung Contracting Services crew; without you amazing people the local ecology would be less functional and my existence less rewarding.*

## **Maintenance a priority**

The moisture provided by the welcome spring rains and the associated warmer temperatures have provided ideal conditions for vegetative growth, both native and exotic. Weed maintenance of onground restoration works is paramount to the success of any project in this area of higher rainfall and fertile soils.

Many projects fail due to lack of maintenance. It is very important to continue with follow-up hand weeding and spot spraying to ensure that the amount of energy, time and capital invested in revegetation and weed-clearing works is not jeopardised.

If you have been involved in restoration works on your property, or have engaged the services of the many local quality providers, make sure you get out into your 'patch' and remove the threat of environmental weeds before they over-run the site, smother native stock and generally out-compete local species for water, sunlight and nutrients.

The warmer temperatures over the next season may reduce soil moisture levels, especially on upper slopes and ridges. Reapplying mulch around planted stock will decrease soil evaporation rates and provide additional organic matter to the surrounding soil, increasing fertility and structural soil components. Supplementary plantings, to compensate for any stock losses, will promote canopy formation, which will further decrease weed potentials as well as enhancing the species and structural diversity of the project.

Site conditions, seasonal fluctuations, natural cycles and human intervention all contribute to the need for ongoing maintenance and monitoring of project sites.

## **Planting times**

Lower slopes, riparian areas and generally 'wet' sites can be planted out over the coming months. Upper slopes and ridges should be planted in late summer to reduce the loss of stock due to high ambient temperatures. These sites perform very well when the higher rainfall of late summer is not mitigated by extreme temperatures.

Some clients are waiting patiently for these conditions for planting. The time is great right now for site preparation, so get out there and start creating the ideal conditions on your block for a late summer planting.

## **Team news**

A big welcome back to our J-Man (Jolyon) who has been out 'working' on the Northern New South Wales coast with Clayton Stokoe collecting seed. Also a big welcome to our new Team Members, Paige and Michael, who have joined our Crew; both demonstrate a great deal of enthusiasm for our mission, performing the work, and participating in 'field conversations'. Big congratulations to our 'Regen Man' (Jake) who has finally completed his Bachelor of Environmental Science degree!



BCS has been fortunate to be the preferred provider for several environmental students from the University of the Sunshine Coast for the completion of their Workplace Training Modules. Environmental Science student Anthony Reeves will be part of the BCS Team for the next 2 months on a part-time basis.

In early December the BCS team will travel to Monto to participate in a revegetation demonstration which will be at the forefront of the National Landcare Conference to be held there next year. It is a great honour for our Team to participate; we will represent Barung with pride.

Significant projects for BCS over the last two months included the large-scale revegetation of a heavily-degraded tributary of the Mary River at Kenilworth; a concentrated effort to control *Anredera cordifolia* (Madeira Vine) in the middle reaches of the Walli Creek catchment; removing the threatening *Setaria palmifolia* from properties adjacent to The Narrows National Park and improving habitat values and water quality through a revegetation project in the Upper Eudlo Creek catchment.



### Barung Contracting

- revegetation
- bush regeneration
- landscape rehabilitation
- environmental weed control
- project planning & management
- indigenous tubestock
- consultancy & property planning
- onground conservation works

coordinator 0429 943 156  
barung landcare 07 5494 3151  
[www.barunglandcare.org.au](http://www.barunglandcare.org.au)  
[contracting@barunglandcare.org.au](mailto:contracting@barunglandcare.org.au)

Renew your Barung membership  
or buy books from Barung's Bookshop  
over the phone  
with your credit card

# OUR BIT OF 'DIRT'

*(with apologies to soils)*

## SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

Many of us cherish the idea of having our own place. Perhaps an acre (or hectare) or two, maybe a veggie garden, some fruit trees, grass and a bit of bush. Now we've got it – what do we do with it? And how do we do 'it'?

There are almost as many answers to these questions as there are 'bits of dirt'. That is to say, each property has a certain 'uniqueness', not least because each property has its own managers (owners) with their own individual aspirations and dreams.

As with all other natural resources (assets), we don't ever really own a block of land; if we are fortunate we may have the *right* to use a piece of land for some purpose for a specified period of time (until we sell it or we die). With this right of use come responsibilities not only to look after this bit of land but also, I'd suggest, to enhance its natural value through wise management.

It makes sense then to begin planning how we intend to manage our property by identifying the goals we harbour for our 'patch': what's our purpose, and why are we willing to expend a considerable amount of our savings (and usually future earnings) to lay claim to a spot we can call our own. It would make even more sense to spend a fair chunk of the time we allocate to a property planning process before we even purchase some land.

So, if you are thinking of buying a farm (large or small) or some land on which you could carry out a productive land-based enterprise, or if you already have one but feel in need of some inspiration, a really good book which covers just about everything is

*You Can Farm: the entrepreneur's guide to start and succeed in a farming enterprise*, by Joel Salatin

Salatin is an American farmer who, in contradiction to the accepted 'wisdom' of the last few decades, believes that family farms can be profitable and, through constantly questioning the status quo and being prepared to think 'outside the square', has proved it so. A more recent book of his is available through Caloundra Libraries; I haven't read it myself but I'd said it would be well worth a look:

*Family friendly farming: a multi-generational home-based business testament*

He has a website at [www.polyfacefarms.com](http://www.polyfacefarms.com)

There is some good information available on Queensland DPI websites aimed at small landholders.

The following site has details about the *Rural Life: Is it for you* CD and Learning Guide which contains a wealth of information for people moving to rural/semi-rural (peri-urban) areas (there is also a copy in the Barung Library):

[www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/community/11891.html](http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/community/11891.html)

*Getting into Rural Life* is a course offered through the Open Learning Institute of TAFE which uses the following guide as a text:

[www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/community/18639.html](http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/community/18639.html)

*Rural Life* is a newsletter for people involved or interested in starting smaller family-owned farms:

[www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/xchg/dpi/hs.xsl/30\\_299\\_ENA\\_HTML.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/xchg/dpi/hs.xsl/30_299_ENA_HTML.htm)

*Wildlife on Farms* contains information relevant to living with wildlife:

[www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/community/17916.html](http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/community/17916.html)

These are just a few of the sites available, and many more are linked to these. Although they are generally aimed at those with 'farming' interests, their advice incorporates good land management principles applicable to other land uses.

A good site from the WA Department of Agriculture and Food is aimed specifically at small landholders and has useful information on property planning:

[www.agric.wa.gov.au/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/IKMP/FM/SMALL/bulletin2006\\_landhands\\_ngannaway.pdf](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/IKMP/FM/SMALL/bulletin2006_landhands_ngannaway.pdf)

Of particular interest is a section containing some key guidelines regarding the location of house, out-buildings, yards, fences, water sources, trees and vegetation, surface water management and finally (and arguably most importantly) the need for thorough planning. It also touches on managing livestock and being a good neighbour.

Another good place to start and closer to home is with the *Blackall Range Landholders Guide*, available from Barung. It is a very good introduction to the area, particularly for those new to Maleny and environs, with a wealth of information concerning our natural environment.

Land for Wildlife is a great organisation to become involved with in regard to protecting and enhancing habitat for native wildlife on your property. This programme has become so popular in the Caloundra City Council area that there are now two Land for Wildlife officers based at Caloundra City Council. They can be contacted on 5439 6433.

Last, but certainly not least, remember you are always welcome to contact the friendly staff at the Barung Landcare office, either by phone (5494 3151) or by dropping in to 17 Bicentenary Lane. If we can't help you, we'll try to direct you to someone who can.

To borrow the title from the WA Dept of Agriculture and Food publication mentioned above: 'It's Your Land [for a while] – be sure it's in good hands'.



**Barung  
Christmas Party**  
*Friday 21 December  
between 1 pm and 6 pm*

**Holidays at Barung**  
*Barung Landcare  
(Nursery and Office)*

**Closed from 12 noon FRIDAY  
21 December  
2007**

**Reopens at 9 am THURSDAY  
3 January  
2008**

# LEAF-CUTTING BEES and SCRIBBLING MOTHS

*WILDLIFE WANDERINGS* by Susie Duncan

The last two wildlife walks have provided plenty of interest including the trademark signs of two very interesting insects. Have you ever wondered what makes those half-moon cuts out of the margins of Native Ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*) leaves? I had imagined that some wasteful caterpillar was working along the leaf, idly taking a chomp here and a chomp there. But on our Gheerulla Falls walk, Bev Hand explained that this was the mouth-work of the leaf-cutter bees (*Megachile* spp.).

There are over 40 native leaf-cutter species in Australia and they occur in every State. They are solitary bees so they do not have communal nests like many other bees. Instead, the female makes a burrow in the ground or uses a crevice under tree bark or in timber, in which she constructs her nest from the carefully collected leaf sections. The leaf pieces are woven together to form a tiny cell which the bee stocks with nectar and pollen. She then lays an egg in the cell, seals the cell and abandons the nest when her work is complete. This all happens in the warmer months and by autumn most adult solitary bees die. The developing young live on in their cells and emerge the following spring as adult bees.

More recently I have noticed that when leaf-cutter bees cut circular pieces out of Native Ginger leaves, these holes are usually in a line. I wonder if they carry several cut-outs at once, or if they simply find a nice soft piece of leaf and keep returning to the same spot. Other soft-leaved plants are used, including exotics such as roses and buddleja.

Leafcutter bees range from 1.1 to 1.4 cm in length. They feed on a range of flowers but have the advantage of a long tongue which allows them to reach the nectar in tubular flowers. Solitary native bees can sting but most are too small to give an effective sting and are not aggressive.

So this brings us to our second mystery. What makes those amazing scribbly markings on many smooth-barked eucalypts? Well, the artist is the larva of the aptly named scribbly gum moth (*Ogmograptis* spp.) The eggs of this moth are laid in autumn between the old and new season's bark of gum-barked eucalypt trees. After hatching, the larva burrows between the bark layers, feeding on tissues in the tree trunk. It leaves a scribble tunnel which increases in size as the larva grows. These tunnels are revealed when the old bark falls away. You will notice that the scribbles on the old outer bark are never matched by the scribbles underneath on the new bark.

In early summer, the larvae travel to the base of the tree to pupate. The tiny adult moths that emerge in autumn are only a few millimetres long.

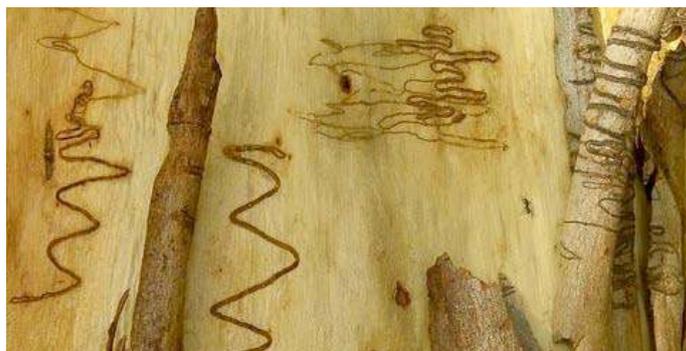
Only recently was it recognised that there is more than one species of scribbly gum moth. At least six distinct scribble patterns have been noted on the 20 species of eucalypts that carry scribbles. It's also been observed that scribbly eucalypts do not carry scribbles when planted outside their natural range. Both these features suggest that there are different moth species in different regions of Australia. Two species have now been identified in the Canberra region, but identifying further species will be tricky given their tiny size.

The tree most prolifically decorated by scribbly gum moths in our region is the aptly named Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*), which occurs mainly on sandy soils on the coastal lowlands of the Sunshine Coast. Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) is also a scribbly species.



ABOVE: Leafcutter bees tackle a Camphor Laurel seedling in a local Forest Reserve. [Photo: Eve Witney]

BELOW: Moth larvae scribbles at Beerwah. [Photo: Dawn Worthington]



## Check out our new wheels!

by Fuschia

A HUGE 'Thank You' to Rob and Sam Outridge from the Maleny Supa IGA and to everyone who has been racking up points for Barung with their Community Benefit Numbers!

With all of your help Barung has been able to purchase this much-needed new trailer from Maleny Town and Country. Eventually we will add a cage and cover so we can transport plants without wind damage.

Barung truly appreciates your support. Look at the difference it has made. Keep up the good work!



Dawn, Wayne and Darryl of Barung Landcare with Rob Outridge of Maleny Supa IGA and the trailer purchased with funds from the IGA Community Benefit Fund.

[Photo: Fuschia]

# ROGUE GINGERS

WEED WATCH by John Wightman

Blackall Range Invasive Weed Task Force & Barung Landcare Management Committee

Three species of 'rogue ginger' have established themselves as weeds in Queensland and New South Wales. They are all garden escapes and are causing serious concern among weed experts. You can, by the way, still buy them in nurseries or order them over the internet.

But first I must remind you there is the native ginger *Alpinia caerulea* which grows in the bush on the Blackall Range. It has a rather inconspicuous spike of white flowers and round blue fruit, and is coming into flower at present.

The centre of origin of cultivated ginger *Zingiber officianalis* and all the related species is believed to be the once jungly tract encompassing India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and western China. Gingers grow in warm, moist places. The family name is Zingiberaceae; in India 'Z' is often pronounced like a 'J' or soft G and vice versa.

You really need to see the flowers to be certain of the identity. In all ginger species, the leaves are alternate along the stem and are long and narrow (about seven times longer than wide) with a thick central vein. The lateral veins run parallel to each other and are set at an angle of about 25 degrees to the main vein. The stems are often well over 1 m tall and emerge from rhizomes – the familiar 'ginger root' of cultivated ginger.

The rhizomes are a bane when it comes to getting rid of the weed species and are the main reason why they have a weed status and are the cause of so much concern.

The rhizomes spread laterally in annually increasing clumps and are very difficult to remove or kill with herbicide. These clumps are impervious to other plant species.

Greg Brown (Caloundra City Council) says that cutting and painting low cut stems with 'Vigilant', which has a gel formulation, is the best way to get rid of them. Otherwise, the chances of eradication, locally and regionally, are remote.

**Kahili ginger, 'Ginger Lily' *Hedychium gardnerianum***

This species is a significant threat to coastal, subtropical and upland forests in Queensland. The worst outbreaks are on Mt Glorious, in Lamington National Park and around Mt Tambourine, and near Mackay. New Zealanders rank it as one of their worst weeds. It is a problem across the Pacific and can form extensive, impenetrable thickets.



*Kahili ginger*

[Photo: Steve Csurhes, DNR&W]

The flowers are yellow with red stamens and the fruit are bright red and orange. A flower head can produce about 400 seeds and there may be 25 stems per plant.

An excellent article by Brian Phillips about this and other weedy ginger species appears in the *Weed Spotters Newsletter* at

[www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/weed\\_spotters\\_spring06\\_newsletter.pdf](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/weed_spotters_spring06_newsletter.pdf)

**Yellow ginger *H. flavescens***

This species has the same profile as Kahili Ginger but seems to be less of a threat. The flowers are white to cream.

**White ginger *H. coronarium***

Wild ginger grows in humus-rich, shaded or semi-shaded areas subject to seasonal or perennial water-logging. Large white perfumed flowers open at dusk. It is native to eastern India and is now widespread in the neotropics, Peru and Europe. In Queensland, the plant has naturalised in the south-east and the far north, and is widely available through nurseries.



*H. coronarium* may be considered to have weed potential in all sub-tropical and temperate regions of Australia, particularly in coastal wetland areas subject to seasonal flooding. Under favourable conditions, the plant could form extensive thickets which may suppress regeneration of native wetland plants. The plant's pest potential may be up to that of the other two species, but currently it should be regarded as a sleeper.

I have an open file on these species in particular. If you have more to add, contact me at [intipm@ipmmaleny.com](mailto:intipm@ipmmaleny.com) or through Barung Landcare on 5494 3151. Thanks to Jane Morton, Brisbane Herbarium, for helping me along the ginger track.

## GOING TO WOODFORD?

Drop in and see the Barung Landcare display at the Woodford Folk Festival 27 Dec - 1 Jan.

If you have some spare time, maybe you could give one of the volunteers a break.

Even better, book a block of time with Fuschia and help support Barung Landcare and our workers.

## WEEDS RESOURCES

**Caloundra Council launches weeds CD**

Free CD, available from the Councils Customer Service Centre or any branch of Caloundra City Libraries.

**Free Lantana Control DVD**

"Battling Lantana: Learning from the experiences of others"

To order, email: [lantanaWoNS@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:lantanaWoNS@dpi.qld.gov.au)

**CRC Weed Publications Catalogue 2007**

Out now! At website: [www.weeds.crc.org.au](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au)

**New Weeds website**

Australian government site: [www.weeds.gov.au](http://www.weeds.gov.au)

**Qld Weed Spread Prevention Strategy**

A model for developing the National Weed Spread Action Plan, developed by Biosecurity Queensland. More info: Contact Biosecurity Queensland.

**Converting Camphor Laurel to Rainforest**

Fact sheet on costs and outcomes of various methods. Contact: [lgould@seqcatchments.com.au](mailto:lgould@seqcatchments.com.au) or 3503 1424

# WINDBREAKS

*THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN* by Joan Dillon

We have been lucky so far to escape the severe storms which have caused significant damage further south. However, we've had them before and no doubt will again. A well-designed windbreak using the right species can alleviate some of their impact. Windbreaks are also used to reduce soil erosion, to double as a visual screen, or for sound control.

The density of the windbreak determines its impact. Density can be estimated as the proportion of the face of the windbreak filled with leaves, branches etc. The extent to which you can see sky and background through the windbreak will indicate how porous it is to the wind. Greater than sixty percent density is most often recommended. Below thirty percent, there is very little effect on wind speed. Density is achieved by manipulating the species, spacing and number of rows, and sometimes by pruning.

The effective protected distance from the windbreak is a function of its height; the greatest shelter is provided from the base to a distance of about 5x the height. Any break between the trees will funnel the wind at an increased speed. The trees are best planted at right angles to the prevailing wind direction and the line needs to be longer than the space to be protected.

Generally, a double row of closely planted trees with foliage close to the ground is quite effective. If the chosen trees have clear trunks, use shrubs or tall dense plants such as lomandra underneath. Trees with predominantly small leaves break the wind most effectively but a mix of foliage sizes can also achieve a good result. Just be aware of the amount of space between larger leaves.

Deep-rooted trees with many small branches are a good choice. Surface-rooted trees are liable to blow over if the soil becomes very wet, and of course the last thing anyone wants is a large, brittle branch landing on the roof.

It's very hard to go past the syzygiums and they provide the bonus of colourful new growth, fluffy flowers in spring and edible fruit. The fruit of *Syzygium australe* add an interesting flavour and colour to damper. Two closely planted but offset rows of this species, with an occasional *Syzygium leuhmannii* interspersed for variety, have provided a very effective windbreak and visual screen on our western boundary. Pruning is done as needed and is barely noticeable.

There's a lot of additional and really interesting information to be found by Googling 'windbreak design'. Articles from the USA have a lot to say about snow, but check out the Australian ones. 'Trees for shade and shelter' is a good topic to search on.



*Syzygium australe* in flower

[Photo: John Dillon]

# GOOD SEASON FOR SEED

*NURSERY NOTES* by Dawn Worthington

In the last two months we have been very busy propagating seed and potting up plants, which is reflected in the number and variety of species now in the retail area (Spring has sprung!). Of course Wayne and I would not be able to do this without the assistance of our 'Volunteer Force', so a big 'thanks' to all our helpers.

Our annual 'Rates Tree Give-away' throughout October was a huge success. An enormous 'thanks' goes to Councillor Newman for supporting Barung in this endeavour, because many other rate-payers are only given a day to get their trees and ***we offer this service for a month!***

We (that's the royal 'we') would like to thank Mark Treadwell for donating two fridges, which replace the one we had for our seed bank that didn't work too well. It is very important that we have proper storage for seeds once they have been collected so that our efforts are not in vain.

## ***Corduroy Tamarind needed***

We seek Corduroy Tamarind (*Mischarytera lautereriana*) seed so if you know of any plants, please check for seed. If you have seed, please drop it into the Nursery (to receive our undying gratitude in person). If you know where there is seed on your own or a neighbouring property, let us know on 5494 3151 and we will arrange for it to be collected. Please try to get seed from regrowth or remnant areas rather than from 'planted areas'. **ALWAYS** remember to get the owner's permission otherwise complications may arise. It appears to be a good seed season this year so keep your eyes open.

Crikey, the 'Plant a tree for Steve' promotion was very well received and emphasised the importance of planting trees for a sustainable future. We were also invited down to Australia Zoo for Steve Irwin Day at the Landcare Tent. The day was HUGE! I know that we say this all the time, or so it seems, but a great big 'thank you' for all the assistance we received on this day, which included ferrying everything up and down the hill...

It appears I have settled in very well here, part of the furniture really! I've met the most amazing people. I just hope everyone else appreciates what the Blackall Range provides, because through my new eyes this place is just incredible.

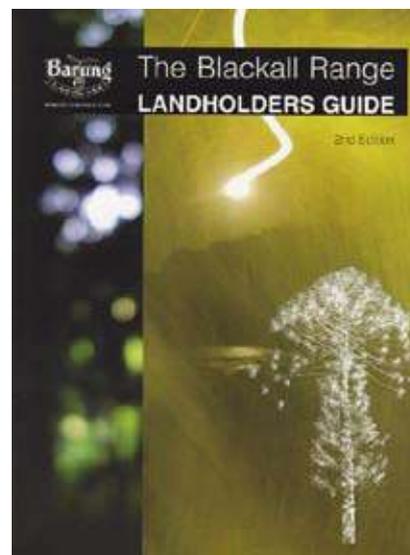
## ***The Blackall Range Landholders Guide***

Written by local experts for local conditions, this guide is inspiring and informative for old residents and new, on a suburban block or large acreage.

**\$15 from Barung  
(+ \$3 if posted)**

### ***Also available at***

Rosetta Books  
The Maple Street Co-Op  
Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve



# KIDNEY WEED

## *Dichondra repens*

Family: Convolvulaceae

### PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Weed? It's all a matter of perspective really.

If you can't abide plants popping up in the garden unbidden, then you are probably going to regard *Dichondra* as a weed. *Dichondra repens* is, however, an extremely useful and attractive native groundcover.

Kidney Weed is a small perennial herb with creeping stems that root at the nodes. It can form dense carpets and cover sizeable areas if conditions are suitable. This, along with its low height (seldom more than 10 cm) makes it suitable as a groundcover under trees and shrubs. It is actually so common in south-east Queensland that it may well be in your garden already – that's if you aren't working hard to mulch or spray it out of existence. It grows well in heavy shade to part sun. Once established *Dichondra* can survive extended dry periods, although it looks much better with plenty of moisture. Kidney Weed can be used to good effect around garden ponds or around stepping-stones.

*Dichondra* may be used as a lawn substitute in low traffic areas. A glance at the Internet shows it is used as such in America and Italy, as well as in Australia. There are about eight species, mostly in the Americas (where they are called ponysfoot). *Dichondra repens* grows widely throughout Australia, and also in New Zealand. Seed available commercially as *Dichondra repens* is apparently more likely to be of an overseas species, to which this name has been incorrectly applied (possibly *D. micrantha*).

*Dichondra repens* has reniform (ie kidney-shaped, and hence the common name) to orbicular leaf blades on 1 to 5 cm long petioles. It looks similar to Native Violet (*Viola hederaceae*) and various pennyworts (eg *Centella asiatica*), and can often be found growing in conjunction with these. Kidney Weed, however, has entire leaf margins whereas the others have crenate (rounded teeth) margins. Kidney Weed also has a velvety feel to the leaves. Flowers are insignificant, as they are small, pale greenish-yellow in colour and are carried beneath the foliage.

As a groundcover, Kidney Weed provides protection for ground dwelling animals, such as frogs and lizards. And as with most groundcovers, it will help suppress the germination of weed seeds and with reducing soil moisture loss by shading and reducing wind speed at ground level.

*Dichondra* can easily be propagated by digging up and transplanting small clumps around the garden.



Close-up of *Dichondra repens* with *Oplismenus aemulus* at right. [Photo: Wayne Webb]



ABOVE: *Dichondra repens* (Kidney Weed) with *Hydrocotyle laxifolia* (pennywort) in foreground, and *Oplismenus aemulus* (Creeping Beard Grass) as taller groundcover behind. All have come up through woodchip mulch of their own accord, providing an attractive low maintenance living mulch.

[Photo: Wayne Webb]

## RAINFOREST RECOVERY FUNDING

Rehabilitation of riparian rainforests in endangered regional ecosystems will be the focus of a new project for the upper Mary River catchment.

The following Regional Ecosystems will be targeted:

- RE 12.3.1 (creeks with *Waterhousia floribunda* as a dominant species)
- RE 12.3.2 (creeks with *Eucalyptus grandis* as a dominant species).

A consortium of partners including the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and the Barung, Noosa and Gympie Landcare groups will be assisting landholders in the upper Mary who are interested in rehabilitating these ecosystems where they occur on their land. Funding for the program has been provided by the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Programme, (WWF and the Burnett-Mary Regional Group) and the Australian Government Envirofund.

Interested landholders will have access to species identification and seed collecting workshops and field days about looking after these ecosystems. One demonstration site will be set up in the area of each Landcare group.

If you think you have areas matching these descriptions and you are interested in doing rehabilitation works, please contact

John Muir at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151

or [John.Muir@bmr.org.au](mailto:John.Muir@bmr.org.au)

or email the MRCCC at [mrccc@ozwide.net.au](mailto:mrccc@ozwide.net.au)

# YEOMANS KEYLINE

## Field Day Next Year

Keyline is a land management programme developed by PA Yeomans on his family properties west of Sydney and published in *The Keyline Plan* in 1954.

Ken Yeomans (PA's youngest son) has produced an updated practical textbook, *Water For Every Farm – Yeomans Keyline Plan* (copies held at Caloundra and Maleny libraries).

In early 2008 Barung Landcare will be holding a Field Day on a local property with Ken Yeomans demonstrating the Keyline Plan together with a Yeomans Plough. We are also expecting to set up trials on properties in the area.

Essentially Keyline is about land planning guided by the Keyline Scale of Permanence, which is:

- |               |              |            |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Climate    | 4. Roads     | 7. Fencing |
| 2. Land Shape | 5. Trees     | 8. Soil    |
| 3. Water      | 6. Buildings |            |

Keyline has a strong focus on soil (and hence pasture) management (including practices such as deep ripping), water storage and the concept of cultivating land so that you get a drift of runoff from depressions (possibly fed by dams and/or rainfall) out onto the ridges and slopes.

Keyline practices attempt to capture runoff from the drainage lines that drain surface flows into creeks, and spread this water across the landscape while enhancing its storage within the soil.

If you are interested in attending the Field Day please contact the Barung Landcare office on **5494 3151** and have your name added to the Expressions of Interest list.

Further info about Yeomans Keyline can be found at [www.keyline.com.au](http://www.keyline.com.au)

## INDIAN MYNA TRAPPING

With support from the Burnett Mary Regional Group, the Mary Local Government Authority Cluster has embarked on a management strategy to trap and kill introduced Indian Myna birds.



Co-ordinator of the Mary Cluster, Amy Gosley, said that the myna bird was the greatest threat to native birds after land clearing. Indian Mynas are spreading through the region, and are extremely aggressive, even chasing small tree-dwelling marsupials.

Sightings should be reported to the local Council.

The strategy is to work out where the 'hot spots' are and to identify nesting and roosting spots. 'Baited traps will then be used to catch the birds which will then be humanely destroyed.

Caloundra City Council is leading the project with trials to determine which design of a range of cage traps works best. The trapping program will involve monitoring to ensure that trapped birds have minimum injury, suffering or distress.

For further information, contact

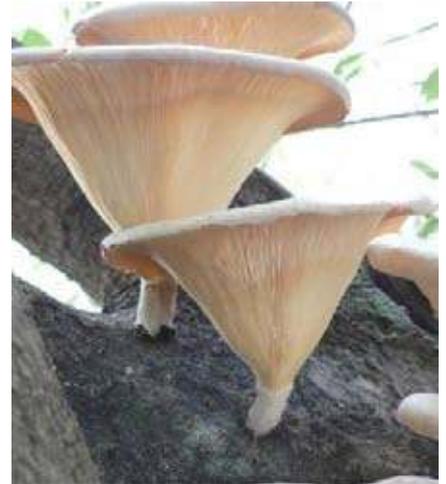
**Amy Gosley on 4190 5874**

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS FUNGUS? or Do you have DEAD PRIVET?

by Lin Fairlie

*Fungus on dead privet, possibly *Lentinus sajor-caju*.*

[Photo:  
Frances Guard]



Calling all Barung members who have dead timber, particularly **dead privet**, standing or lying on their land.

Please have a look at your dead timber and see if you can find a fungus growing on it that is large, cream-coloured and trumpet-shaped with distinct gills and a stalk (see photo).

If you find this fungus – on privet or any other substrate – please take a photo and bring a specimen and/or photo into Barung, along with the identity of the substrate.

Members of the Queensland Mycological Society (including some Barung members) are interested in the occurrence of this fungus. Patrick Leonard has been in contact with the Queensland Herbarium and thinks this fungus might be *Lentinus sajor-caju*, which occurs in Asia and has been recorded in northern Queensland. This species hasn't previously been collected in south-east Queensland. It appears to play a very important role in the breakdown of dead privet timber.

If you find this fungus or have more information about it, please contact me on

**5435 8038** or [linfair@bigpond.com](mailto:linfair@bigpond.com)

## BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

*At the recent AGM, the annual individual membership rate was amended.*

*The current rates are now:*

**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* (700 distribution) and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. (This includes the donation portion of business memberships and sponsorships.)

# THANK YOU TO ...

## for Steve Irwin Day at Australia Zoo ...

... **Kelsy, Natalie, Amanda, Kylie** and the team at **Australia Zoo** for inviting Barung to Steve Irwin Day

... the **Landcare Australia** team for your kind support and the Green Bags

... **Emma, Sherryn**, and **Kristine** from **Queensland Landcare** for your ongoing support, smiles and encouragement, especially at Australia Zoo

... **Lyn Klupfel** and the team at **Tiaro Landcare** for your awesome donation of Mary River Turtle Chocolates to give away as prizes on Steve Irwin Day and for the use of your displays on turtles and koalas

... **John Muir** for picking up the turtle chocolates and displays from Tiaro Landcare

... **Save the Koala Foundation** for the stickers and koala awareness info

... **Department of Environment** for the posters we also gave away as prizes on the day

... **Green Corp team** for sharing information about their Koala Habitat Restoration project at Witta (BMRG-funded via Barung Landcare)

... **Val Phillips, Max Smith, Annette Lawniczak, Jane Williamson, Wayne Webb** and **Dawn Worthington** for being awesome as the Travelling Barungberry Show!

## for the newsletter mail-outs ...

... Oct/Nov *Barung News* mail-out: A big mix-up at the printers so **Val Phillips** took it all home and worked from there with the help of husband **Colin** and good friend **Faye Smith**, and finished it at Barung the next morning with help from **Max Smith**. A huge thanks to all.

... AGM letter mail-out: Thanks go out to **Max Smith, Faye Smith, Gretchen Evans, Bob Aitken, Kerry Sluggett** and **Val Phillips** for all your help. What a great team we have – it makes life so much easier!

... Nov *CodLine* mail-out: What a **huge** day! Thank you to **Gretchen Evans, Max Smith, Kerry Sluggett, Bob Atkins, Faye Smith, Lynn Jannides** and **Val Phillips**.

## and also ...

... **Mark Treadwell** for donating the fridges

... **Dr Pauline** for your donation of plants

... **Bob Aitken, Garry Gordon** and **Sean Hewitt** for volunteering in the nursery

... **Jan Bell** for volunteering in the office and with the Maleny Library display

... **Ron Wilson** at **Hinterland Auto Electrics** for repairing our Nissan starter motor at cost for parts only

... **David Woolston** and the team at **Range Auto** for looking after the Barung Utes

... **Green Corp** team for erecting and dismantling the Barung tent at the AGM

... **HOT FM** for raising \$1500 toward a treeplant

... **Tamara Pascoe** and **Yoga NRG** for the proceeds from your fundraiser

... **Fran Guard** and **Bob Philpot** for your generous donation to the Barung Environmental Gift Fund

... **Maleny Credit Union** for your donation to Barung's Environmental Gift Fund to offset carbon.

## SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES

### 2007 Qld Landcare Conference Proceedings

Available on CD (\$10.00). Order via Landcare Queensland's online bookshop: [www.landcare.org.au](http://www.landcare.org.au)

### SEQ-Irrigation Futures case studies

Six brochures and seven DVDs showcasing irrigation innovation in the horticulture, dairy, cut flowers, nursery and turf industries.

More info: **Geoff McGlashan** on 3211 4404 or [gmcglashan@seqcatchments.com.au](mailto:gmcglashan@seqcatchments.com.au)

### New irrigation website

Info about water trading and irrigation standards and best practice Australia-wide: [www.irrigate.net.au](http://www.irrigate.net.au)

### Australian climate report

The most comprehensive assessment to date of Australia's climatic future, by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO:

[www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au)

### Australian Certified Organic Magazine

Biological Farmers of Australia Co-op Ltd (BFA) quarterly journal relaunched. Free copy of launch edition:

[www.bfa.com.au](http://www.bfa.com.au) or 3350 5716 or [info@bfa.com.au](mailto:info@bfa.com.au)

### Sustainable catering!

Sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic plates, cups etc increasingly available, based on products such as palm casings, cornstarch, bamboo, cane fibre and recycled paper. Barung Landcare and the 2007 Landcare Conference have sourced products from companies such as:

Ecovision Bioplastes – [www.ecovision.com.au](http://www.ecovision.com.au)

Earth Basics – [www.earthbasics.com.au](http://www.earthbasics.com.au)

Biome Living – [www.biome.com.au](http://www.biome.com.au)

## BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

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Mulchmakers

Stephane Cazard of Earthcarer

James & Suzanne Davidson



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## SHADOWS OF GREEN ...

... continued from page 16

Animals such as the Long-nosed Potoroo don't like open ground (especially the oceans of kikuyu). If a species such as this disappears from a forest fragment due to feral cats, foxes or disease, that's the end of that – they're gone from that forest fragment forever.

And not only have we lost a cute and cuddly beast, but that forest fragment has also lost the means of dispersal for mycorrhizal fungi. Which is where things can start to fall apart ...

If the forest fragments of the Sunshine Coast are left as isolated patches their previous diversity will gradually but surely fade away, because as one species drops out of the local ecosystem others follow.

Sadly Long-nosed Potoroos have already disappeared from the coastal area of the Sunshine Coast, and probably the majority of the Blackall Range. Also gone or going is the Tiger (or Spotted-tailed) Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus*, Coxen's Fig-parrot *Cyclopsitta diaphthalma coxeni* and Giant Barred Frog *Mixophyes iteratus*, to name a few.

The disappearance of animal species, due to habitat fragmentation, predators or disease, is only half the picture. The forests themselves hang on for a little longer due to the longer life spans of their plants, but as their health is threatened by weather, disease and weed invasion and their pollinators or seed dispersal agents disappear, forest vegetation diversity will also begin to fade.

Eternal optimist that I am, I believe we can manage our local ecosystems in a positive manner.

First of all I don't think there are any excuses for the clearing of any more native vegetation, at least on the Sunshine Coast. When I say 'vegetation clearing' I mean ecosystem destruction; that is, the complete clearance of natural vegetation and the ecosystem it supports and is part of. From 1000 metres up in the air you can quite clearly see we have already cleared enough land of its native vegetation for all our housing, industry and food needs. We just have to use this land better. So no more clearing!

Secondly, we need to be planting local native plants in our gardens, revegetating stream banks, linking up isolated forest fragments with corridors and, even more importantly, learning more about all our local plants, animals and fungi that make up our dynamic and eternally awe-inspiring local ecosystems.

We can't step back 200 years, but we can move forward together with some hard – but fun – work.

Our grandchildren then may see the return of some of the animal species that have disappeared from our area, and the ongoing survival of our local forest ecosystems. And not be faced with the grief of watching these forests fade into the shadows forever.

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# SHADOWS OF GREEN

## TURKEY TANGENTIAL

By Spencer Shaw of Brush Turkey Enterprises

(reprinted from Barung News October/November 2004)

I was fortunate enough recently (although it took some convincing at the time) to be treated to a joy flight in a 60-year-old Tiger Moth aeroplane from Caloundra to the Glasshouse mountains.

After saying goodbye to my family (the plane was 60 years old!) we gently ascended over a landscape we are not often fortunate enough to view from above. Kinda scary too... and I'm not talking about the fact that I was 1000 metres up in the air without a parachute. The forested areas of the coast look somewhat larger when viewed from land, even from the elevated views of the front of the range, but when viewed directly from above you realize just how isolated and fragmented our forests are.

Here on the southern end of the Blackall Range plateau the fragmentation and isolation of our forest remnants is clear for all to see. Oceans of kikuyu lap gently around the precious islands of forest that remain. But to look at these fragments as islands is a

mistake. They are the remains of a complex, diverse and, most importantly, linked ecology – which is doomed if we do not re-link these remnants.

'Sounds rather dramatic,' I hear you say. 'Has Spencer forgotten to take his happy pills today?' The fact is many of the creatures and plants of our local forests don't like leaving these forests.

The Long-nosed Potoroo *Potorous tridactylus* is a small ground-dwelling marsupial, somewhat like a miniature wallaby. It lives in thick vegetation from wallum heaths through to the dense undergrowth of wet sclerophyll and rainforests. A major dietary component for the Long-nosed Potoroo is the fruiting bodies (truffles) of fungi, many of which are mycorrhizal.

Mycorrhizal fungi live on the roots of living plants and do not damage their host but improve their health immeasurably – by improving the plants' access to nutrients in the soil. After the Long-nosed Potoroo eats these truffles, it disperses the fungi spore (seed) in its scats. This method of dispersal may be crucial to the health of forests by the constant spread and inoculation of vegetation with these mycorrhizal fungi.

... continued on page 15

### The Barung Family

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