LANDCARE

BARUNG
LANDCARE NEWS

December 2008 - January 2009

Barung LANDCARE
WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

MOVING ON AND UP

By Darryl Ebenezer

'Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.' Pauline R Kezer

It's been a long time coming, but finally it is happening. Barung is on its way to the Maleny Community Precinct, with a couple of stops on the way. With the support of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council the process of relocation is moving along swiftly now. The 'material change of use' application for our permanent site is progressing through the processes of Council.

Bye Bi-centenary Lane

Our last day of operations at Bicentenary Lane, where we have been operating for more than 15 years, will be Wednesday 24th December.

All our friends, volunteers and members are welcome to join us for a BBQ to say farewell to the old Barung site on Christmas Eve from noon to 2.00 pm.

The nursery will be selling plants right up until we close for the Christmas break (at noon on the 24th), so you might like to think about giving plants as presents this year.

If you are intending to plant in January, it's 'buy now' because we will be closed until February. And the more you buy, the less we'll have to move to the temporary nursery site, so thank you!

Resource Centre Opens

We are moving the Resource Centre to the Riverside Centre in Maleny, next to Australia Post, where we will be open for business from 9.00 am on Monday 6th January 2009.

Barung Nursery Reopens

At the same time our nursery is moving to its temporary site at the end of Porters Lane in Maleny and will reopen February 2009.

Regarding 'the move', we expect to need a lot of help on a couple of days in January. If you can be part of the team, please check in with the Office in the second week of January.

20th Anniversary

We are looking forward to celebrating our 20th year of operating on the Blackall Range with the Barung family and friends in 2009 on the new permanent site.

So stay tuned: as always, things at Barung Landcare are changing and growing.

Members of the Barung family – Pam Watson (Barung's Office Volunteer of the Year), Darryl Ebenezer (Manager), Wayne Webb (Nursery Manager) and Stuart Bowles (CJP team member) – all set to wave goodbye to Bicentenary Lane as Barung Landcare moves toward its expanded and permanent premises at the Maleny Community Precinct.

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DEADLINE -
Wed 21st January
for February - March 2009
Barung News contributions

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

THANK YOU

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Val Phillips)

Glori Cowan
Robyn Harper
Spencer & Karen Shaw
Flame Hill Vineyard
Iain & Anne Green
Lindsay Pratt
Norm & Janet Brooks
John Lindberg
Wayne & Coral Schultz
Angus Richard
Frederix Hilde
Glenn Brown
Y & H Rohen
Jude Luthje
Liam Nolan
Greg Shanahan
Kate Stock
Wayne & Janet Webb
Friends of the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens Inc
Ella Linwood & Franklin Bruinsloop
Helen Wilkinson & Hamish Sewell
Craig Pullen & Nicola Loynes
Caitlin & Terri-Anne Goodreid
Malcolm & Wyn Lower
G & Fay Rosenthal
Joan Mullighan
Michael Wearing
Sonya Venditti
Colin & Lindel Kielly
Darryl Hawke
S & M Paton
Rosemary Bonney

WELCOME BACK

Lois Tarling
Nora Julien
Ranald Millar
Matt & Mel Bateman
Mark & Pat Fuller
B&C Hadley
Jake Smith-Moloney
Bob Potter
Peter & Meg Creasy
Rick Rexa
David Clark
Tony & Joy Moran
Jackie Montgomery
Irene Keton
Lea & Jill McNicol
Owen Clancy
Shirley Wells & Sheila Krough
Desley & Chris Sanidias
Michael & Sheryl Gregory
Neville Hume & Robyn Carrington
Jan & Annette Schipper
Patrick & Cynthia Knapp
Tim & Mariette Bailey
Roman & Judy Berlak
Chris & Jennifer Mason
John & Annette Sinclair
Michael & Jessica Begun
Reinhold & Creena Maywald
Annette Davies & Val Davis

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

Barung gratefully acknowleges funding & sponsorships from:

Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc

SEQ Catchments – Healthy land – healthy water

Australian Government Water Fund – Community Water Grants

Threatened Species Network

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

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

Rainforest Rescue

Australian Government

MALENY COMMUNITY TRUST
An Initiative of the Maleny Credit Union

AUSTRALIA POST

LANDCARE AUSTRALIA

LANDCARE QUEENSLAND

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

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

BARUNG RECEIVES AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Thanks to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council – Major Grants Program, Barung has received an early Christmas present in the form of assistance to purchase a shade structure and equipment for our new native plant production nursery.

This new shade structure will dramatically enhance our capacity to assist the community in achieving considerable on-ground works on both public and private lands – enabling us to grow up to four times as many plants each year to distribute throughout the Range.

This new shade house will be erected on the new Barung Landcare site in early 2009.

Wayne Webb (Barung Nursery Manager) said, 'Fantastic! I've been wanting a larger nursery for many years. This larger space will let us grow a wider variety of plants and in greater numbers as well as more advanced stock.'

BARUNG'S 2008 AGM

by Lin Fairlie

For the last time at the Bicentenary Lane site, Barung held its well-attended AGM under tents in the potting area. It did not rain (it often does for Barung's AGM) so lack of space was not a major issue this year.

We appreciated that Mayor Bob Abbott and Councillor Anna Grosskreutz were able to attend. We thank them for their continuing support and look forward to welcoming them to the 2009 AGM at our new premises on the Precinct.

Volunteers of the Year were Noel Denning and Pam Watson, and another big 'thank you' to them and to all our volunteers without whose efforts Barung could not operate.

A beautiful locally crafted stained glass window was presented to Barung by Heather and Ken Spring to be a feature at Barung's new home. The window is safely stored and awaiting, as we all are, Barung's move to the Precinct.

Wayne Webb assists Mayor Bob Abbott in potting up a local native plant, one of 20 destined for the new Neighbourhood Centre at Barung's old site and for Barung's new site as symbols of goodwill and continuity.

BARUNG DOES WOODFORD

by Fuschia

I am proud once again to represent Barung Landcare at the Woodford Folk Festival 2008/2009.

This year we will have our own tent at the entrance to 'The Greenhouse' area, right alongside the 'Forest Woodford' stall. Carol and the team at Forest Woodford work tirelessly to get 'folkies' at the festival to sponsor a tree for $5.00. These trees are then planted on site throughout the following year. As you may remember, Barung promised to match the tree sales at the Folk Festival last year and we are going to do it again! Go you Good Thing!

Thank you to Steve McLeish and Jackie Montgomery for volunteering to be my comrades in fun (and hopefully less mud) this year. Hope to see some of you there too!

Best wishes to all for the Festive Season.

The Forest Woodford Team in action at last year's Woodford Folk Festival.

STILL MOVIN'

NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington

Wow, it's that time already. Where do I start?

In the Nursery

Obviously, spring has arrived and summer is nearly here. We have had a few glimpses as to what to expect later in the season, although it has been uncharacteristically cool for spring. The plants took a while to respond to warmer temperatures. Now that they have, everything is going gangbusters. Along with the weeds as well!

Remember to come into the office and collect the latest edition of *Take Another Look – Our Locals are Beauties*, a booklet about local ornamental plant species produced by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. It is a great size to carry with you and has loads of information – highly recommended.

While you are here, have a look at our plants too. We have a few different varieties in at the moment, so allow a little time to browse. Macadamias and Finger Limes have just arrived. We are endeavouring to keep stock numbers up in the nursery to best service your needs whilst we are open for business.

The Barung Nursery will be closed from noon on Xmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December. We will be reopening during February 2009 at the new site – keep your eyes on the local media or contact the Office closer to the time. That's the plan at this stage, although things may change depending upon discussions with the Powers That Be.

Congratulations and thank you to Noel Denning, Nursery Vollie of the Year, who was presented with his trophy at Barung's AGM this year.

Nursery Vollie of the Year

We acknowledged the work of Noel Denning as the Nursery Volunteer of the Year 2008 at the Barung AGM on Saturday 25th October. Noel is our chief pot washer. If you have ever put your hands in a bucket of water during the harshest weather in winter and had them turn white with cold or had the sun burning on the back of your neck in summer as you are bent over cleaning pots, then you would have some idea of what Noel endures on a weekly basis on behalf of Barung Landcare. Noel's service to Barung saves us bucketloads. If we weren't washing and recycling tubes, we have to be buying them.

Noel was presented with a trophy that was a one-of-a-kind! It came about after a conversation around the potting bench when I came out with a new bottle-brush for Noel. (They are hard to come by so when I see one I generally buy it!) Well, we all decided it was such an event that it should be marked by a brush and a native tube, and maybe a tap, mounted on a plaque. This thought came to fruition in the lovely trophy you see in the photo, which was made by Kerry and Clare Sluggett, regular vollies during the week. The timber is *Elaeocarpus grandis* (Blue Quandong) and the final result was spectacular. Kerry also made up a perpetual Admin Volunteer of the Year trophy, which was presented to Pam Watson.

Many thanks to both Noel and Pam for their contribution throughout the year and especially to Kerry and Clare for providing the trophies – beautiful! It continually amazes me what people will do. Thank you, thank you to all of our volunteers. If I had my way, you would all receive trophies.

CJP Team moves on

It will be very sad when our current CJP team of Stu Bowles and Peter Mahon finish in mid-December. Stu has been a lovely person to work with; I hope he has had a great time while here at Barung. While Stu has primarily worked in the Nursery, Peter has been heavily involved with Contracting. We wish them both well with their endeavours and hope they succeed in obtaining employment in the near future.

MOVING!

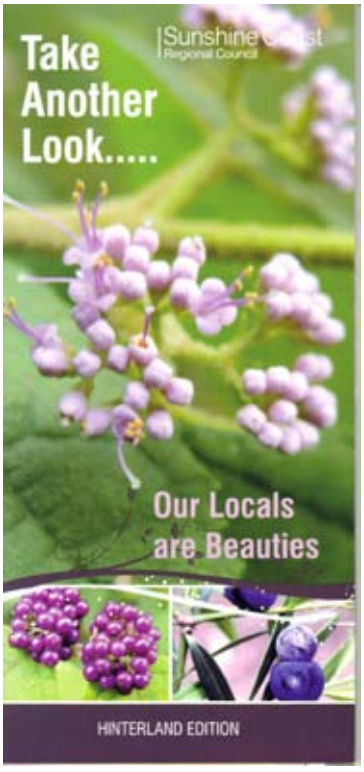
Our frustrations continue regarding the relocation of the Nursery. All we know for absolutely sure (!) is that we are moving from the Bicentenary Lane site by the end of January 2009. As to *where* we are going next and *when* we will finally be located at the new site at the Precinct, well, that's still under discussion.

Asking a nursery to relocate to a new site that has no infrastructure in place and within a four-week period is a huge job! (Wayne reckons the correct word is 'joke'.) All we can really do to try to plan for the move and see what eventuates. Plants don't take kindly to being packed into boxes and stored in a shipping container for weeks at a time!

Let's hope the weather is kind to us come Jan/Feb 2009!

OUR LOCALS ARE BEAUTIES

Our Locals are Beauties presents the ornamental credentials of a wide range of local plant species suitable for showcasing in gardens and landscaping and which are more than creditable alternatives to many exotic (and potential weed) species.



The Hinterland edition of the booklet was launched at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve on Friday 5th September by Councillors Anna Grosskreutz and Jenny McKay, who cut an exotic-looking colour-matched cake in the booklet's honour.

Barung Landcare has plenty of copies of this free publication in stock, so come in and get one if you don't yet have a copy.

BUNYA DREAMING

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

Dear Barung Landcare Members,

Attendance is by invitation only.

Our second Bunya Dreaming, held at Lake Baroon on January 27th 2008, was a great success, so we're doing it again on …

Saturday 31st January 2009

Once again, Bev is issuing 'challenges' for people to participate in. These will be:

1. Bunya Gathering
2. Bunya Shucking
3. Bunya Storing
4. Bunya Art
5. Bunya Cooking
6. Guess the Weight
7. Flora & Fauna Species ID
8. Story-telling

You need to make a donation of $2 to enter the challenges. Team entries need to nominate by 4:00 pm on Thursday 29th January 2009. The challenges are great for team building, and the winning team will have bragging rights to the Bunya Dreaming Trophy, currently held by Brush Turkey Enterprises.

Parking will be provided at the Maleny Showgrounds with regular shuttle buses going down to the site.

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

As members of the

Barung Landcare Family,

you are cordially invited to attend!

(Please bring your Barung Membership Card to facilitate check-in.)

Please call Beverly on 0429 943 153 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 her Bunya Dream Team 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 Bev know at Barung as soon as possible.

Bunya nuts needed too

Please let Bev know if you have bunya nuts on your property available for use at the Bunya Dreaming.

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual/family membership $ 25 pa

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

Business membership $ 55 pa

Business sponsorship $275 pa

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

DONATIONS of $2 or more are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Hollow Log Homes

for sale at Barung

Small parrot
$71

Small bat
$71

Glider
$71

Possum
$85

HAPPY CUSTOMERS, ECLECTIC PLANTERS

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Kate Fraser & Jonathan Waites

Barung Contracting Services is not just about plantin' and weedin', hacking down lantana and spraying weeds. The Contracting team is a group of multi-talented and environmentally aware individuals with many and varied interests. One such member is Grant Meyer, a keen photographer who is as ready with his camera as he is with his sharpened cane knife.

While energetically removing Small-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) from a site on London Creek at Peachester (the Cahill Scrub Project), he was startled by the sudden appearance of a large frog leaping out of a clump of False Bracken Fern (*Calochclaena dubia*). Grant immediately snapped off half a dozen shots while the star of the show obligingly remained calm, cool and collected. On returning to Barung the photos were more closely inspected and compared with photos in the frog identification guide *Wet Forest Frogs of South-east Queensland* (available from Barung Landcare at $9.95 GST inc.). To the delight of the team it is believed that Grant had found a Giant Barred-frog (*Mixophyes iterates*) currently listed as endangered. (This identification has since been confirmed by Harry Hines, frog expert with the Environmental Protection Agency.) This frog is found along streams and rivers in wet sclerophyll and rainforest habitats. There are several suspected threats to its continued existence, one of which is habitat modification caused by, for example, clearing of native vegetation and invasive weeds.

A couple of days later another member of the team, Matt, was able to capture a shot of an adult male Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*) on his phone camera (hence not up to the quality of Grant's effort) that was feeding on Lantana (*Lantana camara*). This butterfly feeds on brightly coloured flowers found in subtropical rainforest, littoral rainforest and gallery rainforest. Larvae however are restricted (in this area) to feeding on a single vine, the Richmond Birdwing Vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*), a plant which prefers the damp, shaded areas typically found in rainforest. Although relatively common in some areas, the butterfly is extinct from two-thirds of its original range.

The team is also busy on several properties working to enhance and protect patches of forest containing the Carronia vine (*Carronia multisepalea*). This vine, where it grows in a collapsed shrub-like form, is the host plant for the larvae of the Pink Underwing Moth (*Phyllodes imperialis* southern subspecies) which is listed Federally as endangered. The moth occurs in undisturbed rainforest below 600 m and until earlier this year Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve was its only confirmed breeding habitat in Qld.

So rest assured that when you engage Barung Contracting Services to enhance your natural area you are dealing with people who care about *all* of the environment, who can see the forest *and* the trees.

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NURSERY DONATES PLANTS

Josi McCormack (pictured with Dawn) collected 25 plants donated by the Barung Nursery for the Mapleton State School Arbor Day Project treeplant on 1st and 3rd September 2009. The trees were planted at a Baxters Creek site which the school had previously cleared of weeds such as Celtis, Ochna, Small-leaf Privet and so on.

Barung Nursery donated a tray of 45 plants for a Cent Auction conducted by the Conondale Picnic Race Club on 13th September 2009 to raise funds for the Dunham Family, whose daughter is suffering from leukaemia. The plants were presented to Lois White from the Picnic Race Club.

WAYNE'S WILDLIFE QUIZ

Which of the following is the one correct answer?

1. If you hear a slurping, gurgling noise from the ground while walking in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, it would be a:
   - spiny crayfish
   - snail
   - giant worm
   - land mullet.
2. A baby echidna is called a:
   - kitten
   - cub
   - puggle
   - muggle.
3. Tiger Quolls are now endangered. They were often killed by early settlers because tiger quolls:
   - would attack their farm dogs
   - love chicken dinner
   - kept the farmers awake at night
   - carried diseases.
4. Fruit bats (or flying-foxes):
   - use echo-location to find their food
   - are important pollinators for many rainforest trees
   - forage for food less than 10 km from their roost
   - hibernate in caves through winter.
5. Great Barred-frogs live around many of our local waterways. Their call sounds like a:
   - motorbike taking off
   - dripping tap
   - loud plaintive 'wark'
   - high pitched 'reeek, reeek, reek-pip'.
6. Richmond Birdwing Butterfly:
   - caterpillars can feed on the introduced plant 'Dutchman's Pipe' as well as the native *Pararistolochia* vine
   - are endangered due to loss of habitat
   - both male and female are green and black in colour
   - are large with wingspans over 20 cm.

Answers appear on page 14 of this *Barung News*.

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GIANT BARRED FROG
Mixophyes iteratus

by Grant Meyer

Working with Barung Contracting Services, I'd just pulled out a Small-leaf Privet from beside a clump of ferns when the frog jumped out. I ran to get the camera and took half a dozen shots. The frog seemed calm as I took the photos.

Site: Cahill Scrub Project on London Creek in Peachester.

Description: Beige in colour to almost caramel brown on the dorsum. The eyes were pure gold and a rich dark blue. The thighs were beige in colour with darker shades of brown. In the photo the full webbing that can be seen between the back toes indicates it is a *M. iteratus*. The frog would easily have covered my hand with my fingers spread out. It was huge and very healthy.

Mixophyes iteratus. *[Photo by Grant Meyer]*

TAKE A WALK

by Lin Fairlie

Have you taken a stroll along Maleny's Boardwalk beside Obi Obi Creek lately? It is well worth taking the time to walk, look, sit on the seats, listen to the birds and refresh your memory about its construction in this special part of the Blackall Range.

Many of us take our surroundings for granted so it is good to stop, consider and appreciate the local environment and the effort which has often gone into preserving or improving what we see before us.

While walking on Coral Street beside the Boardwalk I noticed that Morning Glory, a scourge of the area, is creeping back into the reveg. This is an ever-present problem for this site and illustrates the need for constant vigilance at previously infested sites.

If a few Barung members could, in their own time, go and remove just a few metres of this pest it would benefit everyone. You don't even need to bag it. Just roll it up into balls and hang them in the fork of a tree. A bonus for working here is that it is in the shade.

So please join the 'Morning Glory Goblins' and move in on this pest, starting at the Coral Street entrance, before growth spurts take it out of control.

WILDLIFE HEROES

by Fuschia

Bright and early one Saturday morning in mid-November, Wayne and I ventured off the Range to represent Barung Landcare at Australia Zoo's 'Steve Irwin Day'. We set up in the Conservation Cave along with members of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Network, Wildlife Warriors, Australia Zoo's Wildlife Rescue, the Parrot Society and the Sea Shepherds.

We had the privilege of being next to local heroes Kate and Brian from the Australia Zoo Wildlife Rescue Unit. This dedicated band of seven people are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They answer an average of 20 calls a day and over 3000 calls a year about injured native animals. They have two vehicles and two boats and travel as far as Gympie in the north, Kilcoy in the west, northern Brisbane in the south and the adjacent coastline.

If you need help with an injured native animal in that area, please call The Rescue Unit via the Zoo on 07 5436 2000 or the Wildlife Emergency Hotline on 1300 369 652.

I was also impressed by Captain Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherds who have been campaigning for three decades to defend and protect marine life against illegal exploitation. The Sea Shepherds have been known to slime the decks of Japanese whaling fleets who have illegally entered Marine Sanctuaries and Parks to hunt whales. 'Sliming' makes the decks so slippery the crew are unable to work on them. This intervention has cost the Japanese whaling industry up to $70 million in losses in the last three years. The industry surely cannot sustain such losses for much longer. The Sea Shepherds are hoping one more year of intervention will see the last of these fleets in Australian Marine Parks.

I was horrified to read in the Sea Shepherd Log (no. 65) that 100 million sharks a year are brutally killed by being hooked into boats where their fins are cut off and the sharks are then tossed back into the sea. The sharks can no longer swim and sink to the bottom of the ocean to die a slow agonising death. Shark Angel Kim McCoy said, 'Within a decade, most species of sharks will be extinct, because shark populations are being depleted faster than they can reproduce. This threatens the stability of marine ecosystems around the world.' All of this happens largely to fulfil the demand for shark fin soup! For more information about the Sea Shepherds go to their website: www.seashepherd.org

In amongst all of this sat Wayne and me, proud to represent Barung Landcare. The staff and volunteers at Barung are also viewed as local heroes, quietly out there making a difference for local threatened species and our local environment.

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GROWERS MARKET NEWS

by Pat Fuller

In November, the Blackall Range Growers' Market had been operating for one year. The number of stalls has grown and many more people from inside and outside the region are now attending the monthly 'Witta Market'!

A recent survey of 84 markets registered with the Australian Farmers Market Association found that 49 markets (58%) operate monthly with an average of 34 stalls. This means our local Range Growers Market, now averaging 30 stalls, is well in the range of sustainable, successful, fresh produce markets! If we continue to keep the number of stallholders in the 30 to 35 range we could be in a position to apply for membership of the AFMA in 2009. This would help us in achieving wider recognition as well as providing an additional guarantee to our customers that our produce is of a very high standard.

New stallholders are welcome. All we ask is that you live on the Blackall Range or within a 75 km radius of Witta and are the producers of the products sold. Only if the product is not available locally can it be sourced from further away and sold until such time as a local supplier is found.

I'd like to thank Barung for all the support they have given this venture. Barung staff and volunteers have consistently provided delicious breakfast choices, coffee and cakes. Barung's stall has become a focal point for people to enjoy a catch-up with friends.

The last market for the year is: **December 20th** in the grounds of the Old Witta School, 316 Witta Road, Witta, from 7:30am – 12 noon. **Market Enquiries: 5499 9924**

See you there!

Calling all Barung members…

VOLLIES NEEDED *for MARKET STALL*

Are you able to spare few hours in the morning of every third Saturday of the month? Do you enjoy quality coffee? Are you able to eat egg and bacon for breakfast? Can you converse with others? If the answer is yes to *any* of the above then your presence is required at The Blackall Range Growers Market!

Barung Landcare has a stall at The Blackall Range Growers Market, which is located at Old Witta School Site, Witta Road, Witta, on every third Saturday of the month. We need your help with food preparation and serving, so come along to have a chat, do some cooking and enjoy good company.

It is always an enjoyable morning. Early risers are encouraged as we begin setting up just after 6 am and have to be out of there by noon!

Barung's MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2008-2009

Heather Spring, President

Together with my husband Ken and children Emily and Thomas, I have called Maleny home for the past thirty years. As I commence my third year as President of Barung Landcare I look to the future with a sense of hope and excitement as Barung begins its journey to a new home. This time of change will bring many challenges to the organisation but also many wonderful opportunities for Barung to promote and be involved in the natural resource management of the Hinterland. I am proud to be part of this energetic and committed organisation.

Lin Fairlie, Secretary

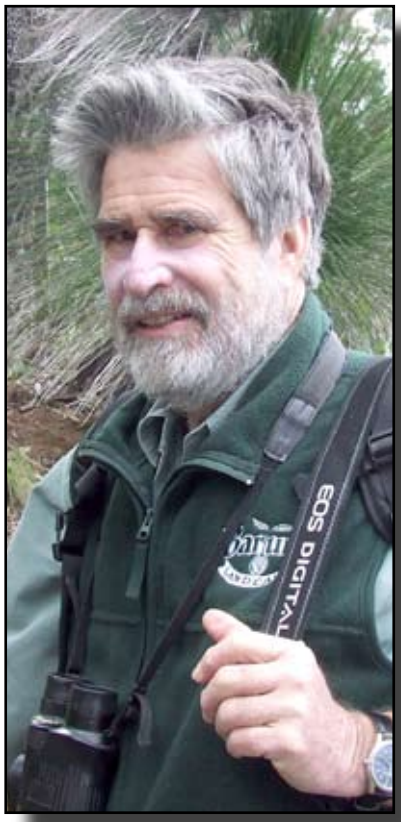
After a career in teaching and Environmental Science I have lived in Maleny for 11 years. Barung Landcare has been an important part of my life in that time as the need for improved natural resource management becomes more and more evident. Barung is more than a Landcare group and its influence extends 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.

David Binstead, Treasurer

We 'retired' to Maleny in 2002 after long employment in the Commonwealth Public Service, in my case for 30 years chiefly in financial man-agement roles. I say 'retired' in quotes because we then purchased a bookkeeping service and later a secretarial service and merged them into Top Notch Business Services, which is certainly not retirement! I grew up on a dairy farm, and have long had an interest in Landcare. My challenge, as Treasurer, is to assist the Committee and the Manager in developing long-term financial sustainability for the organisation – without relying on grants, which have proven to be unreliable as an ongoing source of resources. A huge step towards that long-term sustainability will occur in the current year with the move to a larger site and some security of tenure, to allow Barung to capitalise on the huge unmet demand for native rainforest plants.

Peter Stevens, Vice President

I operate a small beef breeding farm outside Maleny called Arley Farm with cottage accommodation for visitors and tourists. I am also President of Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, a position I have held for six 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.



Eric Anderson

I have been a member of the Barung Landcare Management Committee for five years and am keen to continue making a contribution to this marvelous organisation. I look forward to moving to our new location, the opportunity for expansion and the challenge of becoming a more relevant sustainable group to the landholders in our region. I retired five years ago from the position of Manager, Landscape Management, in the Queensland Primary Industries Department. My research over 30 years covered habitat evaluation and monitoring the impacts of grazing. Agricultural Science was my primary training with further studies in rangeland science for three years in South Africa. I am currently Convenor of Birds Australia, Southern Queensland, and am a member of a number of professional organisations e.g. Ecological Society of Australia and Australian Rangeland Society.

Kate Fraser

I have been a member of the Barung Landcare Management Committee for five years and have been party to changes that have occurred in that time. Now that our longed-for move is imminent I look forward to Barung having extra space and the opportunity to fulfil some dreams. We will have space to propagate and grow on more stock for the Nursery, space for a larger retail area for plants as well as for books and other information, space for a building that will provide better facilities for Barung member workshops, and better facilities for our staff and visitors. I manage a rural property, remove weeds and revegetate degraded areas, have a few cows for meat and milk, chooks and a veggie garden. I also have business, communication and project management experience. As a Barung member, volunteer, customer and Management Committee member, I am very excited about the year ahead.

Pat Fuller

As the Co-ordinator of the Blackall Range Grower's Market now operating for 12 months 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 five 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!

Beverly Hand

As the first Traditional Custodian on the Barung Landcare Management Committee, I see my new role as a fulfilment of a cultural responsibility to 'Care for Country'. The Aboriginal English term 'Caring for Country' inspires people with the rights and responsibilities for country in the form of a holistic relationship with plants, animals, geographical features, astronomy, songs, and religion. Most importantly, it aspires to the notion of a healthy people living in a healthy country. Indeed, 'Barung' is an age-old Aboriginal moiety in this region, with cultural responsibilities to care for certain places of environmental, historical, spiritual, or cultural significance. One such place was Baroon Pocket, the place of the great Bunya gatherings. With pride and joy I am the first of my people in current times to conduct bunya gatherings at Baroon Pocket in the form of the Bunya Dreaming events. People who were born of Barung inherited the totem of the Carpet Snake and the specific cultural responsibility to care for the carpet snake. A carpet snake has long been resident at Barung's Bicentenary Lane premises. As we look forward to our move bringing prosperity and happiness for our organisation, we are obliged to care for this snake and its kind.

Diana O'Connor

There are challenging times ahead for Barung with the change of venue at a time of wide financial uncertainty. I believe the need for a sense of community and working together for our own and the environment's good will become even more important in the year ahead. Awareness of climate change makes our nursery activities even more relevant to a majority of people. The opportunities are manifold and I wish to be a part of the effort Barung makes towards the future. My project, revegetating part of Russell Family Park with the community, makes me acutely aware of the value of local provenance seedling trees which have all been sourced from Barung. I also contribute seeds from remnant trees in my area, where I find landowners only too happy to allow me to collect for a Landcare nursery.

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 at the Maleny Community Precinct, from which the nursery activities and restoration projects can be expanded. Whilst the disruption of relocation will be a challenge, being able to plan for the future in a new and permanent location will enable Barung to move forward with improved infrastructure and facilities for staff and volunteers.

Hinterland Agri-Food Business Network Project

by John Muir, Coordinator

As part of the Federal Government's Reframing the Future initiative, the Hinterland Business Centre (HBC) received a grant to facilitate a local Hinterland Agri-Food Business Network Project.

This is an opportune time for such an initiative to address issues such as Peak Oil and Local Food Security. Seventy-nine per cent of the area administered by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council is non-urban land, and the importance of its sustainable economic development into the future is vital. (Indeed, Mayor Bob Abbott made these points at Barung Landcare's recent AGM!)

Many similar projects are coming together in this region and gathering critical mass. These include the SCRC Rural Futures Strategic Plan, Sustainable Maleny Projects such as Bridge Creek Community Gardens and Transitions Town Movement, and local markets such as the monthly Blackall Range Growers Market at Witta and others at Crystal Waters and Mapleton. There are also several organic food outlets and local fresh food box delivery services available under the Community Supported Agriculture concept.

Following some initial action planning with key local Agri-food business stakeholders, ideas that have come forward include:

- Developing a Hinterland Agri-Food Business Directory (including a list and map of farm-gate purchasing options)
- Producing case studies of local innovative businesses such as Maleny Dairies, Maleny Cheese and Maleny Avocado Oil
- Surveying stakeholders about their industry needs and wants (please respond to this on-going survey, available on the HBC web site, www.hinterland.biz, under the Programs tab)
- Promoting potential Local Farmers Markets, Food Trails, and Local Fresh Food for Local Folk initiatives
- Lobbying and undertaking a PR and advocacy role for these developing industries, promoting them to the wider public and governments (including streamlining some bureaucratic nightmares and paper wars)
- Offering training, education, field-days and workshops for local landholder Agri-Food businesses.

Anyone interested in joining the Hinterland Agri-Food Business Network's mailing list and activities, please contact me,

John Muir, at the Hinterland Business Centre
38a Coral St Maleny
Phone **5499 9829** or **0421 836 325**
Email **johnmuir@hinterland.biz**
or visit the HBC website: **www.hinterland.biz**

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 next time you're in the Nursery.

MAUVE SPLITTING WAXCAP

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

As the wet season approaches, I am looking forward to a wealth of fungi popping up around the Range. Fungi are really important recyclers in the ecosystem but they can also be spectacular and fun to photograph.

One that has been found living on a section of the Great Walk is a delicate lilac-coloured fungus called *Hygrocybe lewellinae* or Mauve Splitting Waxcap.

The fruiting bodies of this mushroom-like fungus may occur singly or in small groups in the litter of rainforest or eucalypt forest. The cap is conical when it emerges and then flattens, and may be up to 7 cm in diameter. A distinguishing feature of this species is the occurrence of radial splits on the surface of the cap as it gets older.

As specimens cannot be collected in National Parks, it is handy to carry a small mirror to look underneath the cap which, in the Mauve Splitting Waxcap, has gills like a typical mushroom. The gills are pale lilac and the spores are white.

The stem is less than 1 cm in diameter and up to 7 cm in height.

The fungus was named by Dr Tony Young of Blackbutt. The name comes from the Greek: hygros – moist, kybe – a head.

The specific name honours a Miss Lewellin who collected the original specimen in Victoria in 1880 and whose painting of the fungus is in the Victorian Herbarium in Melbourne.

References:

Pat Grey (2005) *Fungi Down Under*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

AM Young (2005) *A Field Guide to the Fungi of Australia*. University of NSW Press Ltd.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

WEED WATCH by Lin Fairlie

Ice-cream bean trees were mentioned in the last *Barung News*. I made the mistake of planting an ice-cream bean tree about ten years ago; now it is a very large, attractive tree but it does not really earn its keep in all respects. It has contributed a large canopy as part of a fifteen metre wide multi-species revegetation strip along a fence line. Many local native bird species eat the fruit and there would still be enough for us if we were interested, but that is not the issue.

The potential problem is the hundreds of seedlings carpeting the ground under the tree. The deep shade and competition has kept the seedlings under 30 cm high, but they are just waiting for a break in the canopy. Luckily I have not found them spreading to other parts of the property, which is good I suppose.

While there is so much other work to be done I will probably just leave it there. But with the benefit of hindsight I would not plant an ice-cream bean tree again.

Another popular plant flowing currently is Agapanthus… which has weed potential if the finished flowers are not removed before the seeds mature. The seed heads aren't an attractive feature so a couple of quick walks along with a bag and clippers removes the problem.

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group
455 North Maleny Road, Maleny
PO Box 567, Maleny 4552
info@lbccg.org.au
07 5494 3775

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

by Jane MacGibbon,
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

Those attending our November AGM will have seen our lovely new camphor laurel table, built by a community group at Cooroy and bought with grant funds from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. We had to wait a little for the wood slab to be dried before the table was constructed, but it was well worth the wait. Also bought with the grant were chairs, a projector screen and a new Laser printer.

Another grant, from the federal Community Water Grants program, saw the installation of a 35,000 litre water tank and some water saving devices (shower heads, taps and a urinal sensor) at the Maleny State High School. This will save approximately 5000 KL of water per year, saving the school money and serving as an educational project for the school and the community, as well as helping to improve environmental flows in Obi Obi Creek.

Our on-ground projects are going well, with the Upper Small Creek project completed apart from ongoing maintenance and our Envirofund project on Burgum Rd nearing completion. Watch this space for news of our upcoming large scale projects.

Our Green Corps team has been busy around the district weeding, planting, painting bridges, and maintaining bush tracks. We have also provided lodgings for a CVA team which worked locally.

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and Conservation Volunteers will be facilitating community workshops in the coming months. The intent of these workshops is to broaden community knowledge in conservation, the environment and sustainability.

The first workshop was held on the 19th of November. The evening's speaker was Christine Ballinger from Green Sunshine. Green Sunshine launched its 'Sustainable Streets' program:

'The Sustainable Streets program is about taking the concept of sustainability and applying it at the grass roots level where individuals can see the differences they can make. At the same time the program is also about connecting people… it's about creating a village vision where people can share their experiences and celebrate the spaces in which they live collectively.'

Above: Delivery of LBCCG's new camphor laurel conference table, crafted by the Camphor Laurel Timber Initiative Inc. at Cooroy. Below left: Maleny High School students at the 'opening' of a water tank installed with a Community Water grant.

LBCCG wishes all its friends at Barung a happy and safe Christmas.

COPIER BONUS FOR BARUNG

by David Binstead

In moving our business, Top Notch Business Services, from an office in town into our home at 160 Ruddle Drive, we found we had some large equipment surplus to our needs.

As a result, Barung Landcare now has the use of a leased colour A3 copier for the next 18 months. It is a reliable, fast machine that makes high quality, double-sided copies – much appreciated by those in the office at Barung!

Karen and I still do most things from home, other than stationery sales, including lamination. The large laminator has taken up residence in our family room!

Our two cocker spaniels have taken on the role of customer welcome, and have established posts at the two sliding doors to the office.

Business has been much better than we predicted. We are offering services during business hours from Monday to Friday.

Barung Landcare thanks David Binstead and Top Notch Business Services for the use of the copier:

Top Notch Business Services
160 Ruddle Drive
Phone: **5494 3677**
Fax: 5494 3688
Email: **sales@topnotchbusiness.com.au**

Update on Montville's

RUSSELL FAMILY PARK

by Diana O'Connor

When I last described our activities in the Park in the June–July *Barung News*, we were really just beginning our project. We had planned a tree plant in August. This went ahead and was very successful with 200 trees going in the ground that day.

We now have about 450 trees planted, and as the weather has been so kind with good rainfall, our losses have been few. Most years it is risky to plant in the dry season if you cannot water much, but we have hardly had a dry season! As a result our trees have kept growing slowly through the winter and are looking very good. Many have doubled in size. Council has been most helpful making sure we have had enough mulch, which is so vital for keeping the roots cool and moist on this largely east-facing slope. Council has also extended the treed area several metres down towards the billabongs and we are planting edge plants there at the moment. We try to get 20 trees in each week if we have enough helpers.

Planting at Russell Family Park, Montville, during August 2009. [Photo: Dianna O'Connor]

Of course the good season has been great for the weeds as well and we a contemplating entering our prize Cobbler's Pegs in a Show! We have a small band of regular helpers who are doing battle with these weeds, readying the next bit of ground for planting. I think our average age is in the 60s (plus) and we would love a hand from more like-minded people who might come a few times and work for an hour. The sooner the weeding is done the sooner we can plant the areas up and make the most of this brilliant season.

Our work days are :

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month

Our start time for the summer months is 7.30 am.

So if you can fit it into your busy schedule, do come and join us, especially if you can join in on the morning of Dec the 9th. We'll try for a significant tree plant that day. We finish up with tea or coffee and cake and sit and survey our handiwork.

WILDLIFE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A slurping, gurgling noise indicates a giant worm's burrow.
2. A baby echidna is called a puggle.
3. Tiger Quolls loved chicken dinner, and still do!
4. Fruit bats are important and far-ranging tree pollinators.
5. The call of Great Barred-frogs is a loud plaintive 'wark'.
6. Richmond Birdwing Butterflies are endangered due to loss of habitat.

MORE FUNDING FROM SEQ CATCHMENTS

SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

Barung has recently received confirmation of funding ($20,000) through SEQ Catchments to further address landslip-related issues in the Mooloolah/Maroochy catchment area. Devolved grants will be applied on seven properties to fund revegetation, weeding and regeneration in this inherently slip-prone area. The time-frame for this project is short – by December this year – hence the decision not to call for expressions of interest from landholders. However if you wish to undertake work that you believe will enhance the environment on your property (weeding to enhance regeneration, fencing to exclude stock from sensitive areas, etc,) please contact me at Barung (5494 3151 or 0429 943 151) to register your interest in applying for future funding.

Maleny Weir community treeplant

Unfortunately the community treeplant at Maleny Weir was cancelled due to circumstances out of our control. It is part of a larger revegetation project on this site funded through Rainforest Recovery and WorldWide Fund for Nature Australia and will augment an earlier planting initiated by Sunshine Coast Regional Council. The treeplant has been rescheduled for **Saturday 13th December**. Come on down and plant a tree, have a snag and a yarn while helping protect our creek and our water supply. Please ring Barung for more details and register if you wish to attend.

Worthwhile library additions

Two new sustainability books recently acquired by Maleny Library are well worth a look.

Foundations of Natural Farming: Understanding core concepts of ecological agriculture (2008) is the work of American author/researcher Harold Willis. With a background in biology and entomology, Willis introduces his case for farming with nature by defining ecology as being essentially 'everything connected to everything else'. From here the author moves on to discuss trophic levels, food chains, soils, fertilisers, various 'conventional' (1940 to the present) farming practices and their impacts on the environment. The book ends by suggesting that landholders need to design their own farming system (based on nature's ecological principles) particular to their land while considering its natural strengths and constraints as well as those of the land manager. The author sets out to provide 'the foundations of ecological agriculture' and does so in an easily readable form free of jargon.

The Transition Handbook: From oil dependency to local resilience (2008) by Rob Hopkins has been described as a DIY manual for change towards ecological sustainability. It takes the perspective that the twin threats of Peak Oil and Climate Change offer us a great opportunity for an '…economic, social and cultural renaissance', a chance to redesign the way we live wherein natural limits are recognised and honoured. It is both a theoretical and practical guide for change based on the author's experience and that of the Transition Initiative movement.

The Sunshine Coast has recently become part of this movement through Sunshine Coast Energy Action Centre (SEAC) and Transition Sunshine Coast, Australia's first Transition Town (www.seac.net.au). Local group Sustainable Maleny Project is also part of the Transition Town Network and has recently held two Transition Town workshops. More details are available at their website: **www.sustainablemaleny.org**

2008 QUEENSLAND LANDCARE CONFERENCE

by Eric Anderson

Barung was well represented at the 2008 Queensland Landcare Conference at Monto from 21st to 24th September: three current staff members (Darryl Ebenezer, Fuschia Collard and Jonathon Waites), three Committee members (Lin Fairlie, Bev Hand and Eric Anderson) and recent staffer John Muir all attended.

The Conference was hosted by the North Burnett Landcare Group at the Monto Showgrounds. They showed great imagination in transforming this area into the Conference venue and, with the building of a 'tent city' on site, also accommodated most of the delegates. This created an informal and very friendly place for visitors to enjoy the various and varied presentations.

The Conference theme was 'Sustainability by Design'. The idea was to bring forth the real challenge for all generations to identify the path through a maze of environmental, industrial and political hurdles, whilst trying to maintain a balance between lifestyle and economics. The keynote presentations included topics such as

- Sustaining mental health in rural and remote communities
- Amazing carbon
- How are Queensland's regions responding to climate change
- Peak Oil and the implications for NRM and Agriculture
- Sustainable living and low carbon gardening.

Seven field trips were arranged to showcase the district's sustainable agriculture and conservation. These included visits to:

- a property where the owners are working on managing soil carbon
- Hurdle Gully, which has one of the largest stands of semi-evergreen vine thicket in the world and richer in biodiversity than the Daintree
- Lake Cania, Cania Gorge Tourist Retreat, and Cania Gorge National Park
- a pecan nut orchard, a hardwood plantation, a bushfood garden, an alpaca farm, some leucaena cultivation
- a sustainable house using solar and wind energy
- the latest on the control of cat's claw creeper and creeping lantana
- sophisticated herd recording informing grazing management and improving pasture health at Bonnie Doon.

The Monto community can be very proud of the very successful, efficient and friendly Conference that they hosted.

Next year's Conference is in Longreach – anyone want a lift?

Above: The Monto landscape. Below: Some of the Barung team setting up for the Conference.
[Photos by Fuschia & Darryl]

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OFFICE VOLLIE

for Wednesdays and/or Fridays

Do you have time to help keep the Barung operation running smoothly and lighten the load a little for our trusty staff and other volunteers? We need someone committed and regular, please.

To find out more, please call **Fuschia on 5494 3151** or drop into the Barung Resource Centre during the week.

NURSERY VOLLIES

always welcome

More volunteer help is needed most days of the week at the Barung Nursery.

The company's great and the work's pretty good fun too! Jobs to suit all interests and abilities.

To find out more, please call **Dawn on 5494 3151** or drop in to the Barung Nursery during the week.

As Barung Landcare is a registered charity, volunteer work at Barung may be counted toward meeting work search obligations for people over 55 years claiming New Start allowance. Please check with Centrelink to confirm.

FOCUS ON FAUNA

by Kate Fraser

On 1st November the Old Witta school was alive with snakes, lizards, frogs, birds and small mammals. No, they hadn't escaped from the bush looking for a home, but were brought there for a Land for Wildlife event. The day, organised by Nick Clancy , the Conservation Partnerships Officer from Sunshine Coast Regional Council, was attended by 30 Land for Wildlife landholders. In between the presentations the morning tea and lunch breaks provided us with opportunity to chat to Nick and Alan Wynn (another Land for Wildlife Officer) as well as other landholders.

The first presenters, Jonno and Mel from Educational Reptile Displays, gave a very educative presentation on snakes, illustrated by projected photos, some snakes in display cases and others produced from bags for closer observation. The python, having been stroked by most of the attendees, made itself at home and wound itself around the legs of a couple of chairs. Jonno was a mine of stories and information: 'Shed snake skins are always larger than the snake that discarded them', 'deduct 2 feet from the reported length of any snake', and 'snakes don't chase people'!

The second presenter was Lauren from Geckoes Wildlife Presentations. From a stack of little boxes Lauren revealed treefrogs and a Greater Barred-frog, an eastern long-neck turtle, a water dragon, a southern angle-headed dragon, geckoes, a flying fox, a glider, a possum, a tawny frogmouth and more. By this stage we had relocated to the cool shade of a tree outdoors. A local kookaburra caused some amusement when he decided to perch on a branch above us, checking out his lunch opportunities.

Thanks to Nick and Alan for organising this event and our presenters for their informative and entertaining presentations. (Nick and Alan also coordinate Voluntary Conservation Agreements – see below for contact details.)

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

Council and Landholders working together for nature conservation

Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCAs) are a way of conserving and protecting our natural heritage on private land for future generations, providing benefits for both the property owners and the wider community. These agreements can provide both financial and technical support to assist the landowner and can offer protection for property of high ecological value.

People whose properties contain significant remnants of native bushland are invited to join the program, which provides a simple instrument for permanently protecting a portion or all of a property for nature conservation purposes.

Note that VCAs vary between local government authorities, so aspects of Sunshine Coast Regional Council VCAs may not apply in other areas.

If you are interested in considering the program on your property, contact the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Conservations Partnerships Officers, **Nick Clancy** on **5439 6433** and **Alan Wynn** on **5439 6477**.

Information about 'Land for Wildlife' programs and 'Natural Resource Management Small Grants for Landholders' is also available.

A FIELD GUIDE TO FROGS OF AUSTRALIA, *from Port Augusta to Fraser Island, including Tasmania*

by Martyn Robinson

BOOK REVIEW by Lin Fairlie

This book is actually a reprint, with additions, from an original published by the Australian Museum in1998 which only covered frogs of New South Wales. This increased range makes it a more useful book.

Frogs are recognised as being good indicators of environmental health because of their dependence on water. Under the heading 'Frog Conservation', in this book it is stressed that transferring frogs from one area to another is not a good idea, however appealing the idea may be.

The heading 'Field Observations' made me wonder at first because it had subsections on captive specimens, frog eggs, tadpoles, keeping frogs etc… but when I read on the author was describing techniques for observing the various stages of the frog life cycle, and not on keeping frogs in captivity for any length of time.

How To Use The Key certainly makes the task of the novice easier but not necessarily easy. This is where the excellent photos come into their own. Some characteristics used by the key are more easily identified that others. Some frog calls are quite distinctive and can be easily described, e.g. the 'tok tok' of the Striped Marsh Frog, but it is more difficult to find words to describe others.

Distribution and habitat can help in identification as many possibilities can be eliminated as being from the wrong area. Again this is where the excellent photographs come into their own.

Personally I have yet to find a book which adequately distinguishes between frog tadpoles and toad tadpoles. My experience with tadpoles in a leaking dam leads me to believe that 'toadpoles' are black and more globular and seem to lack the somewhat transparent tissue along the top and bottom of the tail. They also seem to mass together in the water rather than operate as individuals, but this book does not confirm my observations. If any reader knows more, please let me know.

Overall, because of the quality of the photos and the clarity of the key, this could be the book you have been seeking. It is available from the Barung Bookshop. Price is $24.95.

The Barung Bookshop
Barung Landcare Resource Centre
More than 40 book titles,
posters, CDs, cassettes & gift ideas
View titles at
www.barunglandcare.org.au

MALENY WOOD EXPO

Call for volunteers and stallholders

The Maleny Wood Expo may seem a long way off, but we do need to plan early this year, due to Barung's office relocation in the New Year.

Be involved, join the community, gain more skills and support our efforts in making 2009 another Maleny Wood Expo to remember. Book your stall or stick your hand up to help us bring together another fantastic Expo. **We can't do it without you.**

The 2009 Maleny Wood Expo will be held on Saturday 2nd May and Sunday 3rd May.

For more information and to discuss options, call **Steve McLeish** at Barung on **5494 3151**.

MRCCC SUMMER SURVEYS

As the temperature and humidity climbs coming into summer, some in the community rise to the challenge of seeking out some of our very special animals. The Mary River catchment is significant for its frog species. However little is known about distributions and population numbers. To the east is the Wallum country where a group of four threatened frog species live, preferring undisturbed swampy areas. To the south and west live the more stream-dependant species, the endangered Giant Barred-frog and vulnerable Cascade Treefrog among others.

Catchment Officer with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC), Eva Ford, has spent the last five summers searching for frogs in the Mary River catchment.

'Our efforts have mostly concentrated on the river and tributaries to the south of Gympie, with many new sites for threatened frogs recorded and some long-term monitoring sites set up,' Eva said.

'Knowing about distributions and population changes helps us to protect the species that are an integral part of our environment. The information can also alert us to changes in the environment that we wouldn't normally detect.'

The MRCCC has recently obtained funds from both the World Wildlife Fund's Threatened Species Network and the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) to expand the survey effort to areas further afield.

'The funds are to target the Wallum species for which there are huge knowledge gaps, and to increase our effort in the Gympie area for stream frogs,' Eva said.

The funds from the BMRG also provide for further site visits to find the host vine for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. This butterfly has all but disappeared over the past few decades due to clearing of the only plant that the caterpillars can eat. Over the past three years many people have been helping with the recovery of the butterfly by recording sightings of the butterfly and vine and by planting vines to help the butterfly stay in the area. 'Any information on this startling creature is welcomed,' Eva said, 'and vines for planting are often available to people who are interested.'

For more information, contact Eva Ford at the Mary Catchment Resource Centre in Tozer Park Rd, Gympie or phone MRCCC on 5482 4766.

Congratulations to PAM WATSON, The Quiet Achiever

'Office Volunteer of the Year'

by Fuschia

Pam moves quietly behind the front line of Barung on Friday mornings to achieve her tasks without any fuss. She has a passion for our beautiful native plants and volunteers her own time to come and do whatever is required, including organising the plant display for the Maleny Library.

I am always grateful for the hours Pam and all of our office volunteers put in. It really is true that we couldn't do it without them! They are the true Landcare Heroes.

BARUNG'S WHEN & WHERE

WED 24th DEC 2008 – at noon

**** Barung closes for Xmas***

**** Plant sales end until February***

**** BBQ to say 'bye' to old site***

Mon 6th Jan 2009 – from 9.00 am

**** Resource Centre reopens at Riverside Centre, Maleny***

**** Check in with Office if you can help with Nursery move***

February 2009

**** Barung Nursery reopens at Porters Lane, Maleny***

Please keep showing your ...

Barung Community Benefit Key Tags

... when shopping at Maleny IGA

THANK YOU TO …

… **Rachel Stacy** and **Kevin Smith** for your donation

… **Brian Germein**, **Chris**, **Darryl E**, **Ashleigh Ebenezer**, **Diana O'Connor**, **Eric Anderson**, **Amber Worthington**, **David Binstead**, **Jane Williamson**, **Stu Bowles**, **Peter Mahon**, **Heather Spring**, **Dawn Worthington**, **Steve McLeish**, **Lin and David Fairlie** for supporting Barung at the Witta Markets

… **Kerry and Clare Sluggett** for producing the Barung Volunteer of the Year Trophies

… **Karen and Richard** of Montville Coffee for your continued and much appreciated donation of coffee for Barung's Witta Growers' Market stall

… **Garden Trends** at Sippy Downs for donating up to 80,000 used tubes, and to **Noel** and **Max** for cleaning and sterilising the tubes

… **Max Smith** for the use of your personal water pressure cleaner

… **Pam Watson** who ensures that the Maleny Library has a lovely display plant every week!

… **Ben Tarbuck** who has come on board and is monitoring the plant tags in the retail section

… **Stu Bowles** for his collection of 'all sorts of things' when and where needed

… **Petrus Heyligers** for donating a coil ring binding machine to Barung (*we can now produce more professional-looking presentations*)

… **Lloyd Jackson** for your donation of long hardwood stakes

… **Max Smith**, **Brian Germein**, **Kerry Sluggett**, **Dianne Grace**, **Helen Lavery** and **Val Phillips** for the *Barung News* mail-out in late August.

QWALC INSURES BARUNG LANDCARE VOLUNTEERS

QWaLC is the only organisation that represents Landcare and similar environmental care groups and their members from all over Queensland. It is comprised of elected volunteers representing each of the 12 Regional Bodies and overseen by an Executive Officer and a Membership Officer (both paid positions). The Queensland State Government provides funding.

Possibly QWaLC's most important role is to administer the insurance for all registered voluntary natural resource management groups. This year, insurance for volunteers up to 90 years of age was negotiated. QWaLC's other roles include advocacy, meeting with Commonwealth and State Ministers, and representing Landcare with bodies and at events such as Land for Wildlife, National Landcare Awards, and the Community Awareness Grants Assessment Panel.

In the coming year QWaLC will be recognised as the interface between Government and voluntary NRM groups, acting as a Peak Body for these groups.

If you belong to a new NRM or small environmental group and would like to find out more about QWaLC, visit their website at www.qwalc.org.au or contact Lin Fairlie (the Burnett Mary representative) via Barung.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Barung Contracting 1

To Matt Bateman and the Contracting Team,

Thank you very much. I liked the professional approach of the team.

All the best, Mike Keir.

Witta Conservation Reserve

The Wildlife Land Fund Ltd Board was surprised and extremely pleased to be advised of Barung Landcare's generous donation of plant stock and hours of ecological services [at the Wildlife Land Fund's Witta Conservation Reserve on the Maleny-Kenilworth Road].WLFL has already acknowledged the significant donation in its column in the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland's newsletter *LandLines*. The donation will also be featured in the next edition of the WLFL newsletter.

WLFL looks forward to our on-going working relationship that will only benefit our natural heritage.

Yours sincerely, Des Boyland, Chair, WLF.

State Landcare Conference

Dear Darryl,

Thanks so much for supporting the Landcare Conference in Monto. The event would not have been possible without the generous support of people like yourself. It means the world to us.

Warm regards, Sam & all the North Burnett Crew.

Barung Contracting 2

To Lin, Matt and Kate,

Thanks for your special care and attention at our Obi property.

Best wishes, Susan Bryce.

National Landcare Facilitator Project

Dear Darryl,

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for your time when we visited earlier in September.

It was most interesting for us to learn from your knowledge and experiences in your role.

We appreciated learning about and gaining insights into the collaborations of the Barung Landcare Group and the many challenges encountered and advancements achieved along the way.

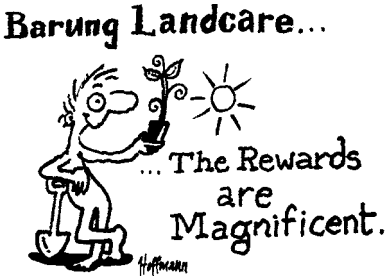
We have provided feedback and advice to the Australian Government to inform the development of the Caring for Our Country program for the 2008–12 period.

We wish both yourself and Barung Landcare well in your continued efforts and congratulate you all for the many outcomes you have achieved in Landcare.

Kind regards,

Coral Love, National Landcare Facilitator

Paul Carroll,
Executive Officer,
National Landcare
Facilitator Project



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COUNTRY FAIR QUIZ WINNER

Congratulations to Jenny Park, winner of a $20 Barung gift voucher for correctly answering all of those Weird & Wonderful questions from the Wacky World of Wayne Webb at the Maleny State School Country Fair on Friday 29th August.

Wayne and Fuschia attended the stall for Barung and enjoyed the fireworks afterwards!

Wayne's quiz appears on page 7 of this issue of the Barung News.

See how well you can do ...

The Barung Family

BARUNG VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members

BARUNG STAFF

Barung Nursery	
Nursery Manager	*Wayne Webb*
Assistant Nursery Manager	*Dawn Worthington*
Barung Resource Centre	
Manager	*Darryl Ebenezer*
Administration Officer	*Fuschia Collard*
Barung Contracting Services	
Team Leader	*Matthew Bateman*
Barung Projects	
Sustainable Landuse Officer & more	*Jonathan Waites*
Editor, *Barung News* and *The CODLine*	*Eve Witney*

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