

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

February - March 2007



Cryptocarya laevigata Red-fruited laurel, Glossy laurel *Family: Lauraceae*

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Glossy laurel is a highly ornamental rainforest species growing to 6 m. It has, as the common name suggests, beautiful glossy dark green foliage and a dense upright habit. Bright red fruit (sometimes orange to yellow) are well set off against the dark green leaves. Fruit may be produced from January to May, with January/February the main period locally. The small flowers are cream, perfumed, and produced in loose panicles (of 3 to 7 flowers) from September to December.

Red-fruited laurels are very **useful garden subjects**. They prefer some protection from full sun, and will retain their dense habit if grown in fairly heavy shade. This makes them ideal to fill in under trees, or to grow along fence lines for screening. Growth rate is slow but steady – mulching well will help. Plant as part of a mixed screen planting and they will provide understorey infill as more rapid species grow taller. They are also ideal tub specimens and can be grown indoors or on a shaded deck. Try a grouped planting in a tub with other species such as blackbean (*Castanospermum australe*) or *Wilkea macrophylla*.

In revegetation work, *Cryptocarya laevigata* is useful as an edge species where its dense habit helps seal the edge from light penetrating sideways into the forest floor, which helps reduce



weed growth. It is also very useful for enrichment planting as taller trees become established.

Cryptocarya laevigata is widely distributed from the Richmond River in NSW to Granite Creek, south of Miriam Vale in southern Queensland. An outlying population occurs around Cairns in north Queensland. It is common in the understorey of lowland subtropical rainforest on basaltic or alluvial soils. Locally, red-fruited laurel is common across the Blackall Range and extends down both sides of the range in riparian rainforests on alluvial soils.

The fruit of our native laurels (*Cryptocarya*, *Endiandra* etc) are generally important food sources for many of our local birds, such as the rainforest pigeons and doves. I'm sure the large fleshy fruit of red-fruited laurel would be no exception.

Glossy laurel is **easily propagated** from seed, although some patience may be required. The red fruit (~15mm diameter) can be picked from the bush, or gathered from underneath as they fall. As they are harvested, soak the fruit in a bucket of water to soften the flesh. The fruit may be soaked for a week or two – if they get too smelly, change the water. By this time the flesh can easily be removed by rubbing and washing through a sieve. The fruit contain a single seed with a hard, ribbed seed coat. Sow the seeds on seed trays of propagation mix and lightly cover with perlite, vermiculite or more of your mix. Water in, then keep damp (but not too wet) in a shaded position. Germination is generally reliable, but may take several months. Don't be in too much of a hurry to throw out the tray after tubing your first seedlings, as germination may continue for up to two years.

Volunteers highly valuable - and valued!

In the report entitled *The Economic Value of Volunteering in Queensland*, Associate Professor Dr Duncan Ironmonger of the University of Melbourne valued the efforts of volunteering in Queensland in 2004 at more than \$16 billion, which equated to an additional 387,000 jobs throughout the state.

Communities Minister Warren Pitt said the report only serves to reinforce what we already know, that our volunteers make an enormously valuable contribution.

But you can hardly put a value on Barung volunteers' contributions – **YOU ARE PRICELESS!**

(You can view the report at www.volunteeringqueensland.org.au)



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Opening Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Barung Nursery & Resource Centre/Office

8.30 am - 4.00 pm

SATURDAY

Barung Nursery only

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual / family membership \$ 20 pa

Business membership \$ 55 pa

Business sponsorship \$275 pa

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. When your BUSINESS supports Barung Landcare, you will be acknowledged in the bimonthly *Barung Landcare News* (800 distribution) and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery. Contact the office at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or email barungadmin@big.net.au for a form.

DEADLINE - Wed 14th March

for April-May 2007

Newsletter contributions

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

Barung Landcare...



...The Rewards are Magnificent.

THANK YOU

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Fuschia in Barry's absence - and looking forward to Barry's return!)

Michael Erbacker	Kevin & Megan Humphreys
Faye Chambers	Katrina Mengede
Brett Newell	Lyn Francis
Bob Grice	Jerry Boich
Edward Heinisch	Michael Towsey
Carol Turner	Mark & Rossand Denham
Rodney Thamm	Crystal Waters Community Living Assoc
Tracey & Mark Wheelen	Josh White
Philippa Howells	Maureen Bontoft
Roger & Margaret Smith	Peter Dallimore
Ron Van Putten	Carl & Carmel Penna
Don & Jo Bowen	Robert Morrel
Reg & Judy Lawler	Lloyd Atkins
Trevor Murray	Peter & Barbara Lavercombe
Geoff Whitson	

WELCOME BACK

Tracey Edmonds	Anne Kemp
Anat & Daniel Donahayne	Clem & Pauline Davies
Ralph Freestun	David & Peggy Hebblethwaite
Dr JN & Mrs PE Yates	Peter & Sue Clark
Trish & Pete Brunton	Shirley & Peter Marsh
Geoff & Helen Eades	Pamela Marsden
Kim Hinckfuss	D Watson
Des & June Harries	Jim Carseldine
Sammy Ringer	Marian Nolan
Anne Morrin	Theda Haehl & Guhan Scott
Gordon & Robyn Jones	Skrandies-Martin
Fuschia Collard	Keith Long
Peter Vanderduys	Bob Taylor
Lin & David Fairlie	Rick & Priscilla Vickers
Max Smith	Lee Sampson
Alan & Pauline Robinson	Lawrie Woods
Eve & John Romer	James Trstentak
P & C Johnston	Jon & Deb Fogg
Merily & Norman Walsh	Malcolm Warfield
Dr Mark & Joanne Boon	Kate & David Beard
D Lowry	John Aldrick
Jeff Scott	Trevor Sauer
Antun Rozumberski	Bo & Sue Williams
Julie Johnson	Robert & Michelle Heyblok
Tim Breeze	Graham & Monique Bond
Peter Sysaught	David Walton
Karyn Maher	B Pluthero
Anne Minter	Donna & Graham Kelly
I Goodall	Marilyn Shrapnel & George Winter
K & C Schelberg	R & J Hoare
Bob Marshall	Murray & Linda Audley-Coote
Maire Lingstone	A Holmes & E Craig-Holmes
John & Denise Elkins	
Frank Shipp	
Barry & Colleen Brady	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

IGA CONNECTION TREEPLANT SET TO GO

by Jonathan Waites

For everyone who has donated funds for the IGA Connection treeplant, we are pleased to say that Saturday the 17th February is the long-awaited planting date. So have your gloves, hats and assorted planting paraphernalia oiled and ready to help put another 500 trees into this great site around the south-eastern edge of the Maleny Showgrounds. Planting will begin at 8 am and we hope to be finished by 10 am. Morning tea will be available for treeplanters when we finish and trees will be provided.

Please ring the Barung Office on 5494 3151 if you would like to attend so that we know how many treeplanters to expect.

The IGA Connection Project began back in 2005 as part of the 100th anniversary of the IGA building in Maple Street. Barung Landcare saw it as an appropriate way to recognise the enormous support and generosity of Rob and Samantha Outridge of the Maleny IGA toward local community groups and events over a number of years, including more recently the Community Chest program.

The IGA's generosity has touched almost everyone in the Maleny community through their support for over 60 local community groups. Many local people and businesses have already sponsored a tree to say 'thanks' to Rob and Sam and the IGA (more than \$5600 has already been contributed!) but more support is needed. Each \$10 donation will pay for a tree, mulch, a stake, maintenance and donors' names on plaques around the site. (What a great *lasting* gift idea for young nieces, nephews and grandchildren!).

All donations are fully tax deductible. Donations may be made by ringing Barung on 5494 3151, or donation forms are available from the Barung Landcare office at 17 Bicentenary Lane.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the project to date. This includes all community donors, Barung's Green Corps team who spent days clearing weeds and rubbish from the site, our Korean visitors who've helped plant the rocky section, and Barung Contracting Services who have helped keep the weeds under control prior to summer. Apart from providing a lasting thanks to Rob and Sam, the project will contribute to improved water quality in Obi Obi Creek, the future viability of the Showgrounds rainforest remnant, a safe fauna corridor, habitat for threatened species, and beautification of our Showgrounds.

Recent infill planting was carried out on the IGA Connection site at the Showgrounds



PREPARE YOUR SOIL

REVEG TIPS by Joan and John Dillon

If there's one thing we've learned over the 9 years we've been revegetating in this area, it is that there's no 'one-size-fits-all' technique and that maintenance is probably the biggest challenge. In the light of our experience and in a series of short, occasional articles, we'll outline methods and tools we've used to progressively revegetate our property, which is still a work in progress.

Of paramount importance is this: do not to attempt too much at any one time. Do your revegetation in connected stages, and work with the seasonal rainfall and temperature. It's not always easy to get the timing right but it's better to delay than to plant when soils are dry and temperatures rising.

First, know your soil. We are on the heavy deeply cracking clay soils of the eastern escarpment, quite different from the red soils of the plateau. They are inherently difficult to work and low in organic matter but otherwise fertile and with a high water-holding capacity. Once cultivated, they will progressively crumble as they wet and dry with rain and sun.

When there's some soil moisture and where the slopes are safe, we rip lines with a single tyne ripper on the tractor, going as deep as possible. The lines are left for about 6 weeks to allow wetting and drying to take place. Once the soil texture is crumbly, insert spade, plant tubestock, water, fertilise if desired (we usually do, with organic pellets) and mulch along the lines. It beats digging individual holes any day!

It's also easy to brushcut between the lines while weed growth is rampant in the first couple of years. We only spray initially where we have a very tall African grass in moister areas, and then spot spray if needed after that. The brushcut vegetation progressively adds organic matter to the soil.

If the planting area is obviously dry, we space the trees to maximise the soil moisture available to their roots and to make it possible to slash between them with the tractor. It's all about planning the planting with future maintenance in mind.

If you have to dig individual holes and the soil happens to be dry and cloddy, backfill, add 10 litres of water, cover with a pad of mulch and leave for a few weeks, letting the natural crumbling process take its course. Then plant.

We're great believers in making our lives as easy as possible. We've also stopped worrying about straight lines. Once a diverse assortment of local trees and shrubs have grown and sorted out their own competition, the lines disappear.

Next issue, a couple of useful hand tools.

Educational Field Day

Biological Orchards and Farm Forestry

- Speakers -

Graeme Sait • Hugh Lovel • Neil Halpin • Matt Kilby

- Demonstrations -

Yeoman's plough • swale mowers • aerators • compost spreaders

8 am - 5 pm Saturday 24th March 2007

129 Keirs Road BELLTHORPE COST \$ 40



trees for earth
tree care products



Contact Robyn Harper
catalyst@serv.net.au
Ph: (07) 5429 6093

**Support Barung Landcare
through your Business**

Forms available from Barung Landcare Office.

BUNYA DREAMING: Healing – Regeneration – Renewal

by Alice Hungerford

We all carry the sadness in our hearts when the land is not cared for and the seasons are not celebrated.

For thousands of years tribes from all over would gather in Baroon Pocket to celebrate the Bunya harvest, conduct ceremony, trade, marriages, challenges, and inter-nation government. Over one hundred years ago this practice ceased as a result of European colonisation. Twenty years ago Baroon Pocket was inundated as the dam was built, burying forever the site of this very special meeting place.

Beverly Hand, traditional custodian of this country, has long held her dream to once again hold a Bunya Gathering in the area. Last Saturday her dream became reality as the tradition of the Bunya Gathering was renewed.

People gathered from far and wide to celebrate, to remember, to share and 'sing up' the spirit of the bunya festivals of old, in this new millennium. Traditional owners and elders travelled from Brisbane and Cherbourg to join Beverly and her family in once again creating a bunya gathering. Elders and Traditional Owners and families travelled from as far as Torres Strait, western Queensland and Tasmania to participate.

With the support of friends, family and the Barung team, people from a diverse range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds joined together in a powerful act of reconciliation and healing to share stories and information, and to participate in the Bunya Challenges.

There were amazing feats of endurance and stamina as men, women and children struggled with huge bunya cones up the hill in the heat of the day. They practiced shucking banyas at speed, and created stunning works of art from bunya products. Traditional dance workshops were run by Lyndon and Walbirra which enabled people to learn and participate in the corroboree at the end of the day.

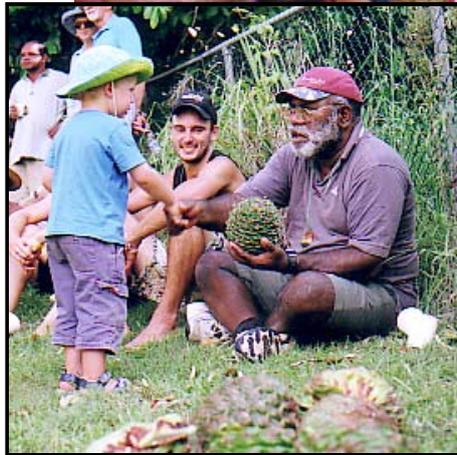
As the sun set over the hills the Gubbi Gubbi traditional owners conducted ceremonial dance and fire-making in an act of strength and renewal – singing the songs and dancing the dances of their ancestors in this special place we call home. Kamilaroi people also shared dance and song and finally everyone was invited to join in the corroboree on the foreshore of the dam by the flickering of lanterns.

Alex reminded us of the meaning of 'Barung': responsibility to care for land, and that while once the Indigenous people cared very well for this land, now it is for all of us to share that responsibility. Beverly's passion and love for the bunya trees and the land inspired all to renew efforts to care for and celebrate the glory and beauty of our natural world.

Some of the sadness for past hurts was washed away as the land, the trees, the ancestors and our environment were honoured and celebrated by the old and the new.



Above: Beverly Hand addresses the Bunya Dreaming gathering.



This was a fabulously inspiring day of regeneration, renewal and healing.

Everyone is looking forward to next year's gathering!

Strolling the Boardwalk

by Jonathan Waites

I'm sure many of you have partaken in the pleasure of strolling along the Obi Boardwalk over the years. You would have also noticed the battle we have with weeds along there. **HANG ON**, don't be scared off by that 'W' word and clear out to the next page yet!

We have had an enquiry from a lovely new and very keen member about the possibility of forming a group to do a bit of, you know, *w-e-e-d-i-n-g*, down there on the Obi.

Now look, this could be fun (well, it could be). What about a sort of a social gathering on an irregular (or regular) basis to stroll the path and pull a few weeds in passing, so to speak. Perhaps with an entertaining, interesting, fun speaker or performer. Anyway, we are open to any ideas (wacky are OK) that you may have.

If you think this might interest you (a great way for new members to meet) please contact me on 5435 2256 or at kendabooka@doggy.com.au

Your Boardwalk Needs YOU!

BUNYA DREAMING

27th January 2007

Thank you to...

... the dynamic **Ms Beverly Hand** for dreaming the Bunya Dreaming

... **Michael Hand** (a HUGE thanks) for all the gathering of bunya nuts, making of message sticks and supporting the Dream

... all the **Barung Volunteers, Staff and Management Committee** for helping to nurture the Bunya Dreaming into a reality

... special thanks to **John Muir** for his tireless, cool, calm and collected help and support, and also to **Mel Smith** for all her help leading up to the event

... **Burnett Mary Regional Group** for funding – special thanks to **Rachel Lyons, Mal and Marg Thompson, Selina Hill, Lurlene Henderson, Lynette Johannssen, Percy Stewart** and **Beryl Gambrill**

... **South East Queensland Catchments** for funding – special thanks to **Susie Chapman** and **Jim Ralph**

... **Aquagen**, especially **Phil Aldridge, Murray Dunstan** and **Shane Watson**, for the beautiful location

... **Cr Dick Newman** for the bus and sponsoring the Life Guard and the Bunya trophy

... **Debbie Newman** for your support and presence

... **Lyndon Davis and Mob** for the power of the dance

... **Alice Hungerford** for being our wonderful First Aid Officer on short notice

... **Antara May** for being the on-duty Life Guard when we know how much you would love to have participated more in the event

... **Karenza Bowen, Luke Barracliff** and **Robyn Adams** for the official photography

... **Caboolture Shire Council Green Corp** and **International CVA group team members** for site preparation

... **Jenny Fitzgibbon** and **Kirsten Cash** for the lantern-making workshop and lanterns

... sponsors for Challenge prizes – **Tjuringa Emu Products, The Dilly Bag, The Range News, Maleny IGA**, and **David Linton** for the Overall Trophy

... to **everyone who contributed to the day** – there were so many willing to help, thank you to **all** of you

... **everyone who participated in the Challenges** – good on you!

... and of course to **EVERYONE who came** – what an awesome event!!!

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

BROODING on Gastric Frogs

WILDLIFE PROFILE By Susie Duncan

In December a group of Barung members set off to Booloumba Falls to see what wildlife specials could be found.

We encountered a beautiful Stephen's banded snake – an animal that none of us had seen before. It carefully wound down the trunk of a large eucalypt and slowly slid across the walking track and up an embankment, tongue flickering all the time. True to the old forest on Booloumba Creek, this snake normally inhabits large mature trees with hollows and vine cover. It feeds on lizards, frogs, small mammals and birds, and rarely descends to the ground, so we were lucky to see it.

We were not so lucky with frogs though. The creek was still and when we reached the falls there was only a bare trickle passing over the rock face. This set us to thinking about frogs and habitat and declines in many frog species. In particular we talked about the southern gastric brooding frog (SGBF for short) which once occurred in Booloumba Creek.

This cute little aquatic frog was only discovered in 1972 but by 1982 it had disappeared from all known areas where it occurred, these all being on the Blackall and Conondale ranges. More about that later. Possibly the most remarkable thing about the SGBF is that the female swallows her eggs or early larvae, broods them in her stomach where they live off the egg yolk, and then coughs them up 6-7 weeks later as fully formed frogs. Up to 25 young can be brooded in this way so the mothers swell up a bit when they're incubating.

Now of course the medical world got very excited about this because it was obvious that the mother frog must turn off her acidic gastric juices to avoid digesting her young. There were big implications for managing ulcers in the stressed-out human world! So all sorts of physiological and anatomical studies were carried out in association with ecological studies, including a major one along Booloumba Creek.

Before the ecological studies were fully complete, the frogs disappeared. It seemed that a series of dry years at the end of the 1970s proved tough for the SGBFs. But concern has grown that along with many other declining frog species, a particular fungus called the amphibian chytrid fungus may have led to the apparent extinction of the SGBF.

Just a few years after the SGBF disappeared, the northern gastric brooding frog (NGBF) was discovered in Eungella National Park near Mackay. It turned up in January 1984 and a monitoring survey was put in place which found that the NGBF was quite common in undisturbed rainforest across its range.

However, by March 1985 not a single frog could be located anywhere. Again the spectre of the chytrid fungus was raised.

So what can we learn from this? It's exciting that species like this have been discovered in relatively recent times, but why are we failing to conserve them? Is it coincidental that the SGBF and the NGBF disappeared soon after their discovery? Was their previous elusiveness a protection?

Perhaps we should adopt a more precautionary principle when species are discovered or re-discovered and keep our hands OFF them. This means that we interfere with them as little as possible and employ our general understanding of their habitat needs to conserve them.

Because after all, knowledge of a species is of little value to anyone once it has gone. Unless of course you're manufacturing anti-ulcer drugs!

Thanks to Major Sponsors

REGIONAL NRM ROUNDUP by John Muir

Bunya Dreaming

A big 'thank you' to BMRG and SEQ Catchments for being the major sponsors, with Barung Landcare and its staff and volunteers, of the most rewarding and exciting inaugural 'Bunya Dreaming Celebration' held at Baroon Pocket Dam on the Australia Day long weekend. Hats off to Bev Hand and all the mob that helped her and Barung make it such a success. Over 300 participants came from far and wide to rekindle traditional activities, from workshops and displays to fire corroboree and competitive bunya events. Congrats and well done all.

Landslips DVD

Also sponsored by SEQ Catchments and BMRG has been the production of a DVD on Landslips. This will be officially launched on Friday 16th February at 2pm at 'World View', Montville Rd, Balmoral Ridge. This video reviews several landslip sites in the Gympie-Pomona area that were repaired over 13 years ago, and updates from an earlier video produced by Gympie Landcare Group. It shows that the often daunting task of repairing and revegetating massive land movement sites is practical and achievable, if done properly. Ring Barung Landcare if you want to obtain a copy or come to the launch.

Now is decision time for on-ground works at some local sites. Jonathan Waites is the Barung project officer for on-ground project work, education and co-ordination for both BMRG and SEQ Catchments projects. Jono is also managing the Rainforest Recovery Project and a SEQ Catchments Upper Stanley-Mooloolah River Headwaters Devolved Grant project for on-ground works. He is also the BMRG-funded National Landcare Program co-ordinator of the Sustainable Land Management project. Jonathan is running various workshops and field days such as Fencing, Soil Management, and Property Management Planning. See coming events.



WILDLIFE WALKS

Susie Duncan will lead wildlife walks on **Wed 14 February** and **Wed 14 March**.

The **February** walk will be in **Bellthorpe** forest and we expect to return by about 2 pm.

The **March** walk will be in the **Mt Mee forest** which is further afield, so the return time will be about 4 pm.

For both walks:

We will car pool, so please **meet at Barung at 8.45 am**.

Bring water, lunch, strong boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and bathers if you want a swim.

The walks are free, but please **book at Barung on 5494 3151** so we can notify you of any late changes of plan, and so we know not to leave without you.

BMRG's Biennial Science Symposium

'From Farmers to Fraser Coast'

When: 19-20 February

Where: Uni of Sthn Qld Campus, Hervey Bay

The two day program will include local experts, keynote speakers, interactive workshops, and a field trip to local farms demonstrating the practical applications of science in water quality and recycling. More than 30 speakers will present on topics including sustainable agriculture, water quality, weeds and feral animal control, cultural heritage and community engagement.

The Burnett Mary NRM Awards will be presented at the Gala Dinner on 19 February.

Cost: Symposium is FREE, but registration is required. Tickets must be purchased for the Gala Dinner.

Website: www.burnettmarynrm.org.au

More info: Ashton Berry on (07) 4124 8501 or ashton.berry@burnettmarynrm.org.au

Landslip DVD LAUNCH

Sponsored by SEQ Catchments & BMRG

Friday 16th Feb from 2.00 pm

at Terry and Deb Bishop's wonderful 'Worldview Centre'

below Balmoral Ridge, off Montville Rd
at the bottom of the big dipper into Brooks Rd
(be careful please, and car-pool if possible)

for a screening of the 35 min DVD
followed by general discussion with
the presenters and stakeholders

Drinks and snacks included

RSVP to Barung Landcare 5494 3151



Garden choices can threaten native species

Australia's first-ever report quantifying the impact of alien plants on Australian biodiversity, produced by the CRC for Australian Weed Management, has found that **invasive plants are the biggest threat to the survival of native species after land clearing.**

The Weeds CRC study also implicates Australian householders directly in the loss of native species, pointing out that two-thirds of the most damaging plants entered the country as ornamentals and escaped into native bushland from parks and private gardens.

Of the 'top' 127 invaders, 82 gained their foothold in the Australian environment after escaping from parks, gardens and ornamental collections. Fifty-six of the 127 are **still available for sale** in garden centres across Australia, **despite having been identified as highly invasive.**

'This study, more than any yet, highlights the responsibility of the home gardener and the garden centre in helping to protect our native species from extinction due to an alien plant invasion,' Dr McFadyen says.

'Many of these plants look beautiful – and harmless – in a small pot. But when they get loose in the landscape they cause havoc, strangling and smothering native vegetation and depriving our native birds and animals of their main sources of food.'

Dr McFadyen notes:

- We need to become educated consumers of plants. Before we buy a plant at the garden centre or market we should first check whether it has a record for invasiveness, no matter how pretty it looks.
- Garden centre staff need to become the local experts in invasive plants. They have a brilliant opportunity to become part of the solution.
- And we must take the greatest care in disposing of all plants and plant material from our gardens, in case it contains weed seeds or has the ability to regenerate.

There is a particular threat in the **trendy decorative grasses and succulents** which are now being planted in low-water-use gardens. They are naturally tough, and many are highly invasive in both agricultural and natural landscapes.

IMAGES of the weeds referred to in this article are available at www.weeds.crc.org.au/publications/media.html

The recently released 2006 State of the Environment (SoE) Report has also highlighted the major threat posed by introduced plants to Australian fauna and flora, and lists a range of native species directly threatened by invasive plants.

More information:

Dr Rachel McFadyen, CEO, Weeds CRC, 0409 263 817

Peter Martin, Weeds CRC, 0429 830 366

Full report: www.weeds.crc.org.au (Tech Series 11)

THE FUTURE: Maleny Wood Expo - 'From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture™'

by Heather Spring, President

Barung Landcare Staff and Management Committee would like to thank, very sincerely, all our members who participated, donated to and supported the Maleny Wood Expo – 'From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture™' in past years. Without your enormous help it would not be the iconic event it has become.

2006 was a year of review and refocus for Barung Landcare, to ensure the organisation's core commitment to its Landcare aims. During this process all of Barung's activities and finances were reviewed, including the Maleny Wood Expo.

The 2006 Maleny Wood Expo was a wonderful event. As I am sure you are all aware, the Wood Expo requires enormous financial and personnel (both paid and unpaid) support from Barung's staff, members and the Maleny community. 2006 was the eleventh year of the Expo. As the Expo is now considered a 'mature' event, it no longer attracts the level of grant funding support as in earlier years. This has left Barung Landcare exposed to a higher level of financial risk in hosting the Expo, which we are unable to take on at this stage.

In light of this and the organisation's desire and need to refocus, we have decided not to hold the 2007 Maleny Wood Expo. Our aim is to concentrate on a number of small but significant events throughout the year, through which we aim to engage a broad and more diverse sector of the community. However, we do envisage that a new and refreshed and revitalised Expo will be held in 2008.

Once again, Mim Coulstock and I, along with all our valued staff and members of the Management Committee, would like to thank you for your past support and participation in the Maleny Wood Expo and we look forward to your continued support in 2008.

Please contact Darryl Ebenezer, Barung's Manager, if you would like to discuss this further or are willing to offer any assistance or be involved in planning for the 2008 Maleny Wood Expo.



Fencing Workshop

Another chance: Wednesday 7 March

The response to the upcoming Fencing Workshop, to be run by Bellthorpe fencing contractor Patrick Frawley, has been fantastic – in fact we were booked out prior to Christmas.

So we have decided to run another fencing workshop on Wednesday 7 March.

If you missed out the first time, get your name down at Barung on 5494 3151 or ring Jonathan Waites on 5435 2256. But be quick as the numbers are rising fast!

(Details available in the last *Barung News*, available online at www.barunglandcare.com.au)

All donations
to Barung and the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are Tax Deductible!

OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

“Nature’s Calendar” Rainforest Talk

Interested in volunteering at the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve? This will be a volunteers’ training session, and the general public is also very welcome. Includes video segment & printed handout.

When: Saturday 17 February
Time: 11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Where: Theatrette, Thynne Education Centre,
Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve
To book: Phone 5499 9907

Rabbit Control Field Day

Aims of the day will include raising awareness of rabbit ecology, behaviour and impacts. Advice and demonstrations of control methods, control responsibilities, sharing experiences, and mapping local infestations with a view to a co-ordinated control program. Hosted by Brisbane Valley-Kilcoy Landcare Group in partnership with Esk and Kilcoy Shire Councils, SEQ Water, SEQ Catchments, Department of Natural Resources and Water and Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board.

When: Wednesday 21 February
Time: 9.30 am - 1.00 pm
Where: Kilcoy
To book: David Matthews of Brisbane Valley Kilcoy Landcare Group on 5498 1092 or 5422 0516

Natural Sequence Farming Field Day

The day will be hosted by SEQ Water and will feature presentations and discussions on Natural Sequence Farming proponent Peter Andrews who featured on the very popular TV episode of Australian Story and at the 2006 Landcare Conference in Brisbane. Natural Sequence Farming is a rural landscape management technique based on ecological principles, low input requirements and natural cycling on water and nutrients to make the land more resilient while potentially offering environmental, economic and social returns to landholders and communities. The principles are explained on the website at www.nsfarming.com

When: Wednesday 28 February
Where: Esk Kilcoy District (venue TBA)
To book: Dianne Peak at SEQ Water on (07) 3011 5137

Managing Fire & Native Vegetation on Your Property

Presented by Caboolture Shire Council, Griffith University, and the SEQ Fire & Biodiversity Consortium. Includes background and practical info, field trip, and application of principles to your own property.

When: Saturday 10 March 2007
Time: 8.30 am – 3.30 pm
Where: CREEC – Rowley, Rd Burpengary
RSVP: by Friday 2 March to CSC Planning & Environment Unit on 5420 0294

IBISCA Queensland

by Petrus Heyligers

No, we are not talking about a new brand of biscuits, but about a lofty research project in which I participated as a volunteer last October.

IBISCA stands for ‘Investigating the Biodiversity of Soil and Canopy Arthropods.’ IBISCA Queensland is the Australian contribution to an international research project to determine which groups of organisms are the best climate change predictors at different altitudinal zones and which survey methods pick up these changes most effectively. It is led by Professor Roger Kitching from Griffith University and the fieldwork is carried out at Lamington National Park in the Border Ranges.



Twenty reference sites have been established spanning an altitudinal range from 350 m (rich notophyll vine forest) to 1300 m above sea level (open, epiphyte-rich beech forest) and sampling is done during two four-week periods, one in spring, the other in autumn. The spring sampling was done last October, the autumn one will be from **8 March to 4 April 2007**. Twenty or so taxonomic specialists, many of them from overseas, go out in the field, collect and return to base with their samples.

To help them carrying sampling gear to the sites, retrieving it and assist with sorting the sampled creatures into their taxonomic groups, a band of volunteers helps out. Last October there were about 50 of them, some just coming for a weekend, many for a week or longer. To get to some of the sites you need to be really fit and quite a few of the volunteers were dedicated bushwalkers.

I soon discovered that I could not keep up with the field crews and spent many days sorting, reviving a long-suppressed interest in insects and their allies. Looking through a preparation microscope (10-40x magnification), picking out every little critter and putting it in the appropriate vial, I discovered what biodiversity really means, both in terms of species and numbers.

Most of the creatures in the samples were small; many of them would be impossible to see with the naked eye and quite a few of the ‘larger’ ones would escape notice unless you specifically look for them. After you have picked out 300 springtails and 500 mites from a single sample in addition to a couple of hundred other beasties such as beetles, wasps, ants, bugs, cockroaches, earwigs, flies, mosquitoes, spiders, centipedes, millipedes and landhoppers, the meaning of biodiversity really hits home: the variety is enormous.

Many of these small creatures were incredibly beautiful, in structure as well as in colouration. What struck me was that you find bristles everywhere, not just on legs, but also at many other places, sometimes even including the eyes. And then to be able to look a spider in the face and see their invariably daunting fangs with the pincers at the end. A predator to be reckoned with!

I enjoyed it and plan to do it all again in March. If you are vaguely interested in volunteering, go to IBISCA Queensland’s website and find out what the project is about and how you can contribute. Lodging and food is provided and free, the people companionable, the mountain air invigorating, so what else could you wish for?

Email: ibiscaqueensland@griffith.edu.au
Website: www.griffith.edu.au/ibisca
Phone: (07) 3735 7962 or 0439 668 094

FEEDING WILD BIRDS (Part 1)

Adapted from *Birds Australia Southern Queensland Information Sheet 26/04/2006*, which can be viewed at the webpage www.users.bigpond.com/basqld/facts/feedbirds.htm

Many bird lovers feed birds in their backyard. There are arguments for and against this practice:

Against

- Feeding may advantage larger, aggressive and introduced species of birds over smaller, specialized and declining species
- Non-native plant species in the bird feed may be dispersed
- Birds used to being fed may suffer when you are away
- Artificial foods may result in an unbalanced, unhealthy diet
- Artificial foods during the breeding season (bread, kitchen scraps, seeds, nuts) can choke young birds.

For

- People who enjoy this contact with local birds can become more supportive of conservation measures
- In highly modified urban settings, the bird community is already highly altered, so artificial feeding may not be so detrimental
- Artificial feeding may have a place in management plans for threatened species.

PREFERRED PRACTICE

In Town

Design and plant a garden that contains a wide range of flowering trees and shrubs as well as other habitat components (native grasses, a pond, leaf litter, logs, etc.). Not all birds need nectar – remember the insect eaters, the seed eaters, the fruit eaters, the scavengers. Some birds feed on the ground, some in low shrubs, and others in the high canopy.

Keeping it 'natural' caters for a greater range of bird species. Birds will use more 'natural' foraging techniques and strategies, and smaller specialized species may be helped.

As the 'habitat' becomes more self-sustaining the effects on other wildlife will also be positive, as greater numbers and diversity of invertebrates, reptiles and other animals respond to the variety of native plants and other features in the garden.

In the country

In their booklet *Birds of the Darling Downs - a land manager's guide* (2005) Greg Ford & Nicci Thompson propose six principles for land managers developing a bird-friendly landscape:

- The bigger the patch, the better it is for birds and other wildlife ... but small remnants are better than no remnants at all.
- Well-connected habitat patches assist bird movement and ensure long-term survival.
- Maintain, enhance or re-establish areas of complex habitat – the K.I.M.M. principle (Keep It Messy Mate)
- Retain hollow trees and stags in a mixed age stand.
- Manage grazing and fire to minimize impacts on native pastures and woodlands.
- Control introduced animal predators.

These principles inter-relate and work together to achieve maximum available habitat for birds and other wildlife within a productive agricultural landscape.

Part 2 continues on Page 14.

Barung Jackpot at Montvegas

by Jane Williamson

Barung Landcare received \$1000 in donations at the door of the 'Hat, Buckle & Boots' Housewarming Party in Montvegas (formerly known as Montville and Razorback) on the night of Saturday 6 January. Guests were invited to bring themselves and a \$10 donation to the hosts' favoured community organisation, Barung Landcare.



When the party hosts put the idea to Barung we thought it was so clever! The party promised to be a great deal of fun, and everyone was so happy to make a donation. It was a great opportunity to promote environmental care on the Range.

The 100 or so local, interstate and international guests enjoyed two outrageous performances by Pastie de Klyne (pictured) from Sydney. (Pastie wants the credit for renaming the village too.) Tammy Wynette, Dolly Parton, Patsy Clyne and Dusty Springfield to name a just a few were never far away.

Lashings of locally produced veggie pasties, chicken sandwiches, Lorrie's Gourmet Pies, sausage rolls, hotdogs and lamingtons (Swiss Crust in Maple Street) – all served in paper lunch bags – kept the party going till the early hours. Local B&Bs from Treetops to Clouds of Montville and Treehouses provided guests with a base to do some sight-seeing as well. IGA was a great source of other supplies as well as the Mapleton Tavern and the Mapleton BP. Bales of straw from The Farm Barn added country ambience and made great seating – all to be recycled as mulch into the work-in-progress garden.

Whilst the shower of rain between the two shows was welcome, it was really the telephone call during the 11 o'clock show from an irate neighbour that threatened to ambush the night. 'I am ringing to complain!' came the lady's voice like a runaway train down the line. 'This is (name withheld) from Number 14 (address withheld). Well, if I had got the invitation earlier I could have come! I'm out in the garden dancing. The music is fabulous.' A moment's stunned silence on the party end was followed with, 'Well come over now, you can still get to see most of the second show.' But the disappointed neighbour replied, 'Oh no, I can't, I'm in my pyjamas.'

The hosts arranged a doorknock of their neighbourhood and the opposite ridge, admittedly a little later than planned, to let the neighbours know about the potential noise and car parking issues. The party hosts were delighted that the neighbours who didn't attend were so very understanding about the one-off event.

Fuschia from Barung said she hoped that other people on the Range might try similar fund-raising ideas: 'Everyone came away happy and the trees were smiling too.'

The winner of the Barung Christmas raffle

was Peter Thompson (Tjuringa Emu Farm).

The prize was a potted Bunya Pine decorated with \$100.00 worth of scratchies.

Hey Peter, were any of the scratchies 'fruitful'?

GRANT FUNDING soon ...

Envirofund

Round 9 to open in February 2007

Register at the website to receive a copy of the Australian Government Envirofund Guide and Application Form for Round 9 when it becomes available. You can also view a general guide to the eligible activities and requirements of the program, sample application form, and advice on planning your project and preparing an application.

Website: www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/

More info: 1800 303 863 or envirofund@daff.gov.au



Community Water grants

Round 3 to open early to mid 2007

Subscribe at the website for information on Round 3 as it becomes available. This Australian Government program offers grants to encourage better water use and improve water health through practical on-the-ground projects such as water saving and efficiency devices, water recycling, and water treatment.

Website: www.communitywatergrants.gov.au

More info: 1800 780 730 or cwg@deh.gov.au

Grant Application Workshops

When the funding rounds open, local workshops on understanding the grant process and preparing an application often follow! Watch your local media, or contact John Muir on 5494 3151 or 0429 943 153 or johnmuir@sun.big.net.au

First cab off the rank

'Grant Writing & Funding Opportunities (like Envirofund & Community Water Grants)' Workshop, offered by SEQ Catchments

When: Monday 12 March

Times: Likely 9.30 am to 2 pm, including lunch

Where: Toogoolawah

To book in, or for more info on **other upcoming workshops** offered by SEQ Catchments: Ronda Williams on 5422 0516 or rwilliams@seqcatchments.com.au



Home Garden WaterWise

REBATE SCHEME

The Home Garden WaterWise Rebate Scheme is a Qld Government initiative to support householders making their gardens more water-efficient.

A rebate of 50% up to a maximum rebate of \$50 is available, for purchasing certain native and drought-resistant plants, soils and mulches, composting or worm farm equipment, water crystals and soil wetting agents etc.

Only one claim per unique identifying address can be made over the lifetime of the scheme.

For more information – and to check that your purchase will be eligible BEFORE you buy – phone 1800 243 585 or visit

www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/index

Drainage Line Challenge

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Ponds make a great feature but not everyone wants to go to the trouble and/or expense of sealing against leakages and topping up losses through evaporation. A natural drainage line can provide a great opportunity to grow a waterless water feature, effectively a green ribbon using many similar or related plants. It looks like a permanently damp area but actually isn't, although it may flow during or following a big storm.

Since there's plenty of steep country on the Blackall Range, many of us have to deal with gullies, places where excess water may fan out below a gully, or areas which may in fact be permanently moist. This sort of terrain is great for creating special habitats and each type of drainage line presents its own challenges. Common to all will be the likelihood of significant soil erosion.

Water has extraordinary erosive power, whether it's flowing in a channel or falling directly on the soil. Unless your plants can intercept or reduce the impact of water via their leaves or other structures, any mulch (and probably some of the plants as well) will end up downstream or buried, at least in the early days.

First, assess your gully/drainage line. Are the sides steep or is it a shallow, graded depression? Is there any existing protective cover? Can you use your gully to link existing areas of vegetation and provide a corridor? Do you have control over the drainage or does the occasional overland flow come from another property? What can be grown to protect the soil, provide suitable habitat, and look interesting? Much will depend on your particular soil type and it's always worth seeing what, if anything, grows naturally in similar situations.

The remnant vegetation on the heavy soils of the eastern escarpment does not usually include much understorey, relying for soil protection on a dense canopy and deep leaf litter. Natural erosion is unlikely to be stopped but can be slowed. Where there is an existing canopy and therefore shade, planting options may be reduced but there are still many possibilities. Ferns including treeferns, native ginger *Alpinia caerulea*, native guava *Eupomatia laurina*, and palms are likely to do well. The aim is to use plants with dense surface root systems or stems which arch over and take root where they touch the soil, just like (but definitely **not** including) lantana. Native mulberry *Pipturus argenteus* is a good pioneer species on the top edge of steeper gully lines, and creek sandpaper fig *Ficus coronata* also establishes well. These two are small multi-branched trees.

In open areas, *Lomandra hystrix* and crinum are obvious candidates, plus sedges, teatrees, bottlebrushes and paperbarks of which there are many. Check at Barung for availability and what will suit your area. The sedges, with their root mats, will certainly slow down water flow and also trap silt. Size, leaf form and colour vary enough to create some interesting patterns.

Leptospermum petersonii and *Melaleuca bracteata* are fast growers, both native to freshwater wetlands but able to grow in drier soils. Native lasiandra *Melastoma affine*, with its large open pink flowers, needs permanent moisture. *Banksia robur* is very adaptable and will certainly bring the honeyeaters.

Until your plants are fully established, it's a good idea to anchor hay bales across the line of flow to give the roots a chance to spread. In a steep gully, use old fence posts or heavy timber/fallen branches. These may also need anchoring with a short length of star picket or something similarly sturdy.

"Designing" the drainage line landscape can be a lot of fun and introduce a whole new dimension to the garden.

THE PARABLE OF BUSH REGENERATION

BARUNG CONTRACTING 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.

My name is Brendan Stephen and I have been coordinating the Barung Contracting Services since late last year. Jolyon has taken some time for himself and has journeyed overseas, never to be heard of or visually identified again. Seriously, he will return and continue to uplift our spirits like the shining light we all know him to be. This newsletter article will introduce to you the dedicated and legendary team that make up the Barung Contracting Services Crew. Those that possess a balance of physical endurance, exertion and a mental cognitive ability that can discern the leaf of a local vegetative species from a sea of exotic weed infestation while discussing the complexities of our simple existence.

Armed daily with brush hooks, cane knives, saws, brushcutters, knapsacks, chainsaws, mattocks and squirt bottles, these chosen few employ a diverse range of methodologies to control exotic weed infestations to encourage the recruitment of native regeneration. The depth of detail involved in **bush regeneration** and general Landcare projects place further demands than usually associated with physical labour. The BCS Crew all share a collective interest in our outstanding local ecology, ensuring our onground work is of a very high standard. The next time you meet, see or have the pleasure of close interaction with a Barung Contracting Services Crew Member (or any other professional



Barung Contracting Services-facilitated regeneration (left) versus Lantana infested gully (right). In this regeneration area at Hunchy, minimal planting has occurred.

through to the wet and dry sclerophyll, riparian, wetland and coastal associations, the BCS Crew generate outcomes catered to the needs of the client and also to the requirements of the natural functioning ecological processes we all enjoy.

We have been collecting propagules of *Anredera cordifolia* (Madiera vine) at Dilkusha; controlling *Lantana* from Hunchy, Peachester & Montville over to Witta, Conondale & Kenilworth; saying goodnight to *Ipomea indica* (morning glory vine) all over the plateau; encouraging *Erythrina* spp. (coral trees) to embrace mortality; interacting with mature *Ficus* and *Araucaria* elders; revegetating degraded pastures from Bellthorpe to Dulong; dissuading *Neonotia wightii* (glycine) and *Araujia sericiflora* (moth vine) from overrunning nearly every reveg patch in the region; and finally, praising *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Ligustrum lucidum* and *L. sinense* (camphor laurel, large and small-leaved privet) for the role they play in local forest dynamics while assisting them to take their leave of these hallowed places.

A huge shout-out to the BCS Crew (without you all our personalities would become as static as those *Lantana* gullies we all enjoy) and also to all the bush regenerators across the Range, including our local landholders who have utilised our skills, abilities and general personalities for the greater good.



Above: Jo, Sylvia & Jake.

Right: Michael.



bush regenerator) remember that to sweat, itch, dehydrate, be saturated and a host for numerous parasites is to give your whole for the ecological and community functioning of our region. Forget the allure of corporate Australia; job satisfaction and personal contentment are the only externalities of bush regeneration.

Anyway, enough of the BCS affirmation service; we have all experienced a very busy period over the last two months. The BCS Crew manage a large range of project sites involving a wide range of soil and vegetation types across the Sunshine Coast hinterland, allowing our immersion in a variety of community types controlling exotic weed palettes, enhancing natural successional dynamics and generally developing a landscape of continuity and connectedness. From the local dry and subtropical rainforests,

BARUNG CONTRACTING SERVICES for landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reveg, regen & farm forestry ✓ project management - planning, site prep, planting, maintenance ✓ weed identification & control ✓ property planning & consultancy ✓ environmental landscaping
	ring Jolyon - 0429 943 156 or Barung Office - 5494 3151

Broad-leaved Paspalum: A new weed on the block

WEED WATCH ONE by John Wightman
Blackall Range Invasive Weed Task Force
and Barung Management Committee

Broad-leaved paspalum *Paspalum mandiocanum* (BLP) occurs naturally throughout eastern South America and southern North America, centering on Brazil (where it is planted for erosion control in coffee plantations). In trials starting in 1995 in northern NSW, it showed good potential as a ground cover under macadamia trees, but the trials were discontinued because of a risk of BLP becoming a weed in warmer areas. It was first recorded as a weed in Queensland in pasture on the Atherton Tablelands in 2002.

The Blackall Range has hosted broad-leaved paspalum for at least three years. Bede Mackenzie picked it up as a wrong'un in and



around Bellthorpe in 2004, and has been tracking it ever since. I recognised it as a robust pioneer species at 'Flowers from Paradise' on Stanley River Road, also in 2004. I mentally labelled it 'barnyard grass' and assumed (perhaps correctly) that it came out of an ad hoc mix of grass and cereal seeds I'd sown to prevent soil erosion in a newly developed field of flowers. It performed this function supremely well.

There are several ways of recognizing BLP:

- Grows in clumps up to 1 m across with flower stems over 1 m high.
- Flower/seed heads clearly of a paspalum, with up to 20 seed stalks (rachis) on alternate sides along the 'flower head' and up to 40 florets/seeds on a flower stem. (Note: the flower/seed heads of the common narrow leaved paspalum look like little palm trees).
- Leaves are decidedly broader than other species of paspalum you are likely to see and are a 'real' emerald green
- Base of stems is red-brown (more Burgundy than Merlot).
- Grows in full sun to deep shade along and into forested areas.

Why the fuss? Bede has been getting increasingly concerned for a number of reasons:

- Cattle and horses just will not eat it. It is the first grass species to appear after the end of a dry spell and the over-grazing that normally happens during such periods.

- Seedlings can survive and prosper in established swards. Maturing plants develop dense clumps and rapidly over-grow the surrounding vegetation, such as kikuyu and signal grass.

The current known range extends from Bellthorpe, north-eastish along Stanley River Rd, down Postmans Track, down Scotts Road, through Wootha, to Maleny, along Mountain View Rd, into Mary Cairncross Park, down Bald Knob Road, towards Peachester and around the Reesville 'loop'.

Its distribution along the roadsides is clear evidence that it is spread by mowing. BLP and cobbler's pegs were one of the first species to recolonise the roadsides after the Main Roads Department's ad hoc destruction, with herbicide, of roadside verges tended by Range residents.

A future scenario is BLP growing across the Range's grazing land and replacing the edible species. Careful consideration by wise heads is needed to plan and implement a way of containing and pushing back this latest threat to our local livestock industry.

Many thanks to Bede Mackenzie for many of the above words and to John Muir for his concern.

WHAT'S IN YOUR REVEG?

WEED WATCH TWO by Lin Fairlie

If you have reveg which is a few years old, have you been for a walk in it recently? If you have, can you identify the seedlings that are becoming established? Does it matter if you can, or will they just sit there 'patiently' until there is a break in the canopy, as happens in mature rainforests.

Personally I don't like the idea I am harbouring undesirables, so I remove the seedlings I know are weeds. Seedlings I don't recognise as weeds get the benefit of the doubt until they are larger and I can take some leaves into Barung for identification. Knowing your common weed seedlings is a good place to start.

In my recent quick wander what did I find?

By far the most were Chinese elms, plus privet and camphor laurel and, worryingly, quite a number of asparagus ferns as well as ochnas. All these are bird-dispersed and can occur along edges of reveg as well as within it.

But the edges are the ones most at risk. This is where the greatest seedling numbers are found as the wind-blown seeds tend to get caught within a zone of a couple of metres. Because my neighbour has a long driveway edged with Himalayan ash I find many seedlings from these wind-blown seeds. Then there are the moth vines – these are hard to pick once they are up the tree until their white flowers give them away in summer, but as seedlings they are one of the easiest to identify and remove.

Another 'sneaky' vine is Maderia vine which always seems to send its stems up right beside a tree trunk. Its white flowers later in the year can give it away if you are unfortunate enough to score one of these. How these get into the reveg is beyond me when they were not there initially.

What of the desirable arrivals? Somehow it is easier to remember the undesirable seedlings – thank goodness there are less of them. But on the positive front there were a number of goyas – more than anything else – as well as a number of wattles, silky oaks, white cedars and macarangs, and near parent trees there were numbers of sandpaper figs, all of which are easily recognized. Possibly some of those mentioned earlier as 'leave till they are bigger' will turn out to be valuable too.

An occasional walk through your reveg can be pleasing as well as productive, getting to those weeds before they get out of hand.

BOOKS FOR SALE AT BARUNG

RAINFOREST TREES & SHRUBS

Book Review by Lin Fairlie

RAINFOREST TREES & SHRUBS - a field guide to their identification is a relatively new book available at Barung. It has been eagerly awaited by those of us who found some difficulties with the original 'Red Book', *TREES & SHRUBS in Rainforests of NSW and Qld.*

Some 850 species are described, an increase of 309 from the previous book. A larger area is covered, down to Victoria, so now all rainforests species of mainland eastern Australia south of the tropics are covered.

The section 'Descriptions of the rainforest types' has been enlarged, and more comprehensive diagrams of the rainforest subforms now include heights of trees. As well there is a little more detail on soils for some forest types.

There is useful information about scandent shrubs/climbers but apparently this book does not replace '*Rainforest Climbing Plants*'. Also useful is a short section on 'Weeds in rainforest'. Reference is made to another publication which deals more fully with potential weeds in rainforest areas. That book, by the Big Scrub Landcare Group, 2000, is sold by Barung.

But this is the question: can I correctly identify rainforest trees using this new book? I feel I have more chance of doing so correctly now.

This book is now available, or can be ordered, at Barung. Price: \$42.

Please keep showing your ...

**Barung
Community Benefit key tags**

... when shopping at Maleny IGA.

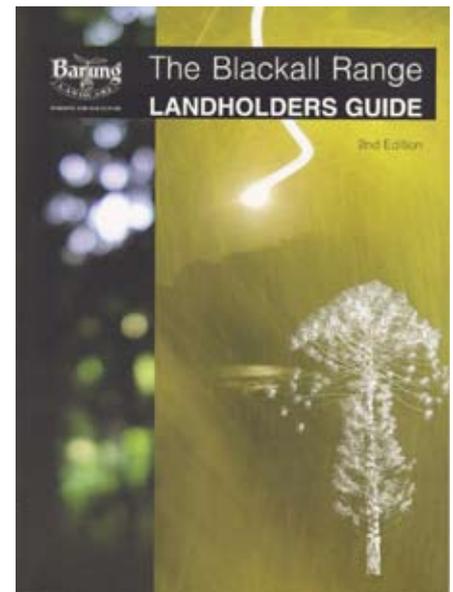
The Blackall Range Landholders Guide 2nd Edition

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.



WEBSITES

Home Guides for Reducing Energy

www.greenhouse.gov.au/gwci/index.html

Global Warming Cool it: A home guide to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gases. Available from the Greenhouse Office, Department of Environment & Heritage, at the above web address.

State of the Environment 2006

www.deh.gov.au/soe/2006/index.html

The State of the Environment 2006 is the third independent national stock of the Australian environment. The 2006 edition covers 2001-2006 and reports on all aspects of the environment. Many of the environmental issues that face Australia have intensified since the last SoE report in 2001. Available at this web address.



'WHERE'S WAYNE?'

Here, one of the most common questions asked at Barung is apparently answered by, 'Under a grass skirt with his mates Gordon Halliday and Beverly Hand!' Mim spotted the photo opportunity provided by this screen of kangaroo grass Themeda triandra being prepared for seed collection, and Fuschia clicked the shutter.

FEEDING WILD BIRDS (Part 2)

BEST PRACTICES FOR FEEDING WILD BIRDS

If you do choose feed birds, here are things you can do to minimize harm to birds and yourself (from *An Introductory Guide to Feeding Wild Birds* by Michelle Plant).

Hygiene

Maintain a high level of hygiene. Some illnesses such as salmonellosis, and psittacosis can be passed between birds or from birds to humans. By keeping your equipment and feeding area clean, and always washing your hands, the chances of becoming ill will be minimized.

Scrub all feeding and watering equipment (using household detergent), then soak for 10 minutes in a solution of 1:9 household bleach to water (made fresh), followed by a thorough rinse and dry. (Refer to manufacturer's instructions for safe chemical use.)

Keep feeding equipment well away from household eating areas, including the kitchen sink.

Feed

Provide fresh, clean, quality feed that is nutritionally balanced for the birds you attract. (Not too many sunflower seeds – they can cause obesity and related diseases.)

Provide bird food, not human food, which is not appropriate for birds and can cause harm. Keep the feed fresh by storing it in airtight containers.

Feeding equipment

Stainless steel feeding dishes are best because they are non-porous and easily sterilized, which means the feeder won't be harbouring dangerous bacteria.

Use a feeder design that protects the feed from becoming contaminated by droppings, and which limits waste feed and droppings from collecting on the ground around or under the feeder. Waste collecting on the ground can spread disease from bird to bird. Bird faeces (even when dried) are potentially harmful to people.

Quantity

Once a day – either in the morning or in the afternoon – put out one third of a cup of feed for the birds.

Limit feeding time to approximately 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, remove any leftover feed because it can become contaminated or may attract more aggressive birds to the feeder.

Water

If offering water, make sure the supply is fresh and equipment is kept clean. Clean equipment thoroughly and replenish the water supply twice a week.

Sick or dead birds

Very sick or dead birds should be handled with caution. Use protective gloves and a mask. Dead birds can be disposed of in two layers of sealed plastic bags. Any frequent/large occurrences of dead birds should be reported to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Observe the effects of your feeding

Take care that you aren't causing problems by feeding wild birds. For example, birds can be drawn into areas where they might be at higher risk of being preyed upon. Offer feed in a clean area that is safe from traffic and predatory birds and animals. Some more aggressive birds can take advantage of feeding sites and become a nuisance. And do not create a nuisance for your neighbours.

THANK YOU to ...

... **Petrus** for your kind monthly donations, a great contribution to Barung

... **Wayne Parcell** and **Allen Ostafie** for their 'Fundraising (\$1000) for Barung Housewarming Party' at Montville in January

... **Tangoexpression** for donating 50% of the door takings at their Tango Ball before Christmas

... **Gretchen** for the mower

... **Max Smith** for donating a barbeque

... **Max Smith, Pat Cavanagh, Marion Adamson,** and **Col & Val Phillips** for inserting, folding, labelling and posting the Dec-Jan issue of the *Barung Newsletter*.

Wanted

4-drawer filing cabinet
(lockable)
for the Barung Office (please)



Your editor having a jolly time at the Barung Xmas party. Rumour has it Mrs Claus's name is 'Jane'.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

James & Suzanne Davidson
Maleny Motor Trimmers
Lilyponds Holiday Park
Mulchmakers
Earthcarer



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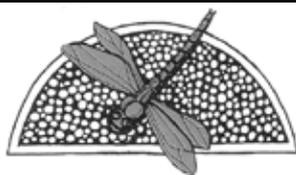


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The Wilderness Garden ...

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and grasses to shrubs, vines and small trees. One spectacular wildlife attracter has been our native elderberry *Sambucus australasica*. This plant fruits most of the year attracting a range of small fruit-eating birds – but the Lewin's honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii* just can't stay away. Muttonwood *Rapanea variabilis* is also another great bird feeder even though it only fruits for 4-6 weeks in summer; the catbirds *Ailuroedus crassirostris* and bowerbirds *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* can't resist them if they're in the area.

However, too many people will panic when they see a wild garden. That sense of order that we impose on the landscape around us (so as to override the inadequacies of the modern human psyche) is rampant. It is evident in the vast expanses of lawn and the waves of exotic plants that we flood the landscape with.

It is also evident in the fear of all things making their own living in our territory, whether they have feathers, scales or fur.

Cats, dogs and birds in cages are just fine but a possum raiding your fruit tree, a brush turkey scratching up your mulch, or a carpet python keeping down the rat population are just too much for the many of us. This is 'our' space and we think we must remain in control and tolerate no free loaders.

The extremes to which some individuals will go to maintain this sense of order and dominance over 'their' backyard would make your average fascist grimace with inadequacy.

In our area recently, maimed brush turkeys have been appearing, with beaks partially or completely missing. After pondering the situation and speculating on some disease of the beak, it appears now that someone in our neighbourhood, driven to distraction by the brush turkeys propensity to scratch up mulch, decided to take the law into their own hands and set steel-jaw traps with food as bait! Steel-jaw traps may result in a quick death if all goes right (but rarely does), but what if a possum, bandicoot, dog, cat or a child steps on one – the consequences don't bear thinking about! The individual who set these traps had problems with 1) thinking and 2) understanding consequences.

Nature is abundant – when given half a chance. Diverse ecosystems are crucial to our very survival. Our lives can be enriched by sharing 'our' territory with our local wildlife.

Plant local grasses in your garden and think before spreading the Rat poison. Plant local shrubs in your garden and think before you spray insecticide over your favourite exotic. Plant local trees in your garden and calmly rake that mulch back onto the garden that the bl...dy brush turkey scratched up!

Human life and nature's abundance are not mutually exclusive. We can work together.

Ron Wilson

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The Wilderness Garden

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

by Spencer Shaw, Brush Turkey Enterprises

After 12 years in downtown Maleny the Shaws are about to pull up roots, go rural and move a few kilometres west to Reesville. Surprisingly in a move from town to country, what we will miss most (for a year or so – until our plantings develop) is the abundant wildlife we share our lives with.

In those 12 years we have packed our small 800 m² block with as many native plants as physically possible and reduced the lawn to a few square metres. We have reached a stage where we share our little piece of paradise with an awesome variety of local wildlife.

In the shed tucked up on the rafters on a cool day is our friendly carpet python *Morelia spilota variegata*. A common bearded dragon *Pogona barbarata* affectionately known as 'Billy' has shared his life with us in our front yard for almost 2 years. Yellow-faced whip snakes *Demansia psammophis* hunt for a variety

skinks amongst the rock walls. A family of pale-headed rosellas *Platycercus adscitus* call 'home' a nest box that is a mere 5 metres from our kitchen window.

Black possums *Trichosurus caninus* and ringtail possums *Pseudocheirus peregrinus* bounce across the roof on moonlit nights, grey-headed flying-foxes *Pteropus poliocephalus* raid the bananas, and of course there's always the brush turkeys *Alectura lathami*, magnificent megapodes around every corner.

There are red-browed finches *Neochmia temporalis* raiding our bamboo grass for their nests in the Davidson plums, and spangled drongos *Dicurus bracteatus* clearing citrus bugs off the finger limes, and so many more....

Our garden is proof that you can live in town and still be surrounded by wildlife. If diversity is the spice of life, I guess you could say our garden is a curry, and it's very tasty.

When we moved into our place in Maleny 12 years ago the front garden struggled to grow grass and had a spindly assortment of azaleas and exotic bulbs. Now our front garden is totally wild, with a complex range of native plants from groundcovers, ferns

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The Barung Family

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Treasurer	<i>David Binstead</i>
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Editor, <i>Barung News</i> and <i>The CODLine</i>	<i>Eve Witney</i>

**And our many Volunteers, Labour
Team Participants, and Members**

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