BARUNG
LANDCARE NEWS

February - March 2013

Barung Resource Centre
Riverside Centre, MALENY
Mon to Fri: 9 am - 4 pm
07 5494 3151
info@barunglandcare.org.au
PO Box 1074 Maleny Q 4552

Barung Nurseries
0429 943 152
nursery@barunglandcare.org.au
Porters Lane NORTH MALENY
WED to FRI: 9 am to 3 pm
Forestry Road LANDSBOROUGH
By appointment

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

www.barunglandcare.org.au

AT HOME AT THE NURSERY

by Eric Anderson

Of recent times a pair of Buff-banded Rails have taken up residence at Barung's Porters Lane Nursery in North Maleny. The Rails have laid their eggs amongst tubes of grasses on top of the benches. This year they successfully hatched five fluffy black chicks. However, unfortunately, only one has survived; the others most likely caught the attention of predators such as cats, foxes, goannas and birds of prey.

From top: Seven Buff-banded Rail eggs in grass nest. Buff-banded Rail chick. Chick foraging with parent. [Photos: Eric Anderson]

BUNYA DREAMING

A CELEBRATION OF THE MAJESTIC BUNYA TREE

THE BUNYA DREAMING WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR

The event planned for this weekend, Saturday 2 March, has been cancelled due to weather & environmental conditions.

Until next time...

info@barunglandcare.org.au
5494 3151

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Calling for Volunteers! Calling for Volunteers!!! Calling for WOOD EXPO Volunteers!!!!!

OK, it's Volunteering-for-the-Expo time again. This is a great opportunity to meet your community and/or catch up with old friends from past years while being part of the iconic Maleny Wood Expo.

Come along and join our dynamic team of volunteers that make this show happen.

We have lots of spots waiting for ***you*** to fill – helping on the Landcare BBQ (you get to eat), directing traffic (tell people where to go… nicely), selling raffle tickets (smile a lot), and more.

Have a look at the registration form for more opportunities – or maybe come up with some new ways to help!

REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER:

1. Register online at www.malenywoodexpo.com.au/woodexpo/get-involved.php
   OR
2. Register in person at the Barung Office
   OR
3. Call Jono on ***5494 3151*** for further information.

We would love to hear from you sooner rather than later - it helps organisers enormously with planning.

NEARLY WOOD EXPO TIME!

The 17th Maleny Wood Expo 'From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture' will be hosted by Barung Landcare on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May at the Maleny Showgrounds, and both exhibitors and visitors are gearing up for the best yet.

Put the date in your diary and bring your family and friends for a great day out.

Across the site the region's best furniture makers will be showcasing their work – from fine furniture to more rustic alternatives – all crafted from sustainably harvested Australian, weed and recycled timbers.

Whether you're after a unique Mother's Day present, a superb piece of handmade furniture, an outdoor BBQ setting or a couple of slabs to work your own magic on at home, the Wood Expo has it all.

The $12 admission for adults includes parking at the Showgrounds, and children under 16 enter free of charge. Pensioner concessions are available.

The Wootha Prize, the feature exhibition, is themed 'On 4 Legs' in 2013. The theme is open to artistic interpretation but all entries must adhere to the Expo's timber ethics.

2013 MALENY WOOD EXPO

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May

The Barung Nursery will promote the advantages of planting local natives with an extensive range of grasses, shrubs and trees for sale.

Displays by other groups will highlight regional environmental and conservation initiatives.

Visitors can stock up on local boutique produce at Taste Maleny and explore alternatives at the sustainable homes displays.

Apart from these attractions, the Expo will bring our timber heritage into the present with chainsaws and mobile mills in full swing demonstrating how huge logs are prepared for end users.

Stallholder applications close in mid-March. Application forms for exhibitors such as mobile millers, woodworkers, tool suppliers, Taste Maleny produce suppliers, environmental displays etc can be obtained by ringing:

Expo Coordinator Steve McLeish on 0428 674 335.

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS TRAVELS THE SUPER-HIGHWAY

By Susie Duncan, Coordinator

I have had the pleasure of travelling between the alps in Victoria and the Daintree rainforests in North Queensland over the summer.

This has been a great reminder of how the forests of the Great Dividing Range and Great Escarpment provide a super-highway for lots of migrating birds. Some like the Koel (the bird that calls Coo-ee over and over in the spring) and the gorgeous little Rainbow Bee-eater go all the way to Papua New Guinea in the winter to find warm havens and plentiful food. Then in the spring they trek all the way back to southern Australia where they breed.

To achieve this they need continuous habitat along the way so they can find food and shelter to charge up their batteries. When there are gaps in the vegetation they risk being picked off by predators or simply running out of juice.

This is where Hinterland Bush Links comes to the rescue. By looking after the existing bush and linking it together with broad habitat corridors, we can offer a more secure passage for these north-south migrants.

This also helps species that stick around to breed or live here all year round. And there are lots of birds that are nomadic, moving around in all directions according to where blossom, fruit and seed are available. The connection of the landscape allows them to seek out these precious resources.

Whilst on the Atherton Tableland in North Queensland I linked up with some of the people doing great work on restoring bush and creating wildlife corridors in the Wet Tropics. I looked in on two exciting research projects in cleared farmland; one trialling a range of revegetation techniques, the other testing different ways of achieving natural regeneration.

One interesting technique was to provide upright trimmed branches as perches for birds to defecate seed at the site from fruit eaten in the surrounding rainforest. This assists natural regeneration.

Both projects aim to come up with the most effective ways of re-establishing rainforest and associated biodiversity at the least cost.

Back in Hinterland Bush Links country, good works are also underway. Matt, Kate and Josh from Barung Contracting have been busy mapping weed vines in the Cambroon corridor between the Blackall and Conondale ranges. We have initial funding from BMRG to control Cats Claw, Madeira Vine and Dutchmans Pipe in this area. This will liberate native vegetation from smothering weeds and remove the toxic threat posed by the Dutchmans Pipe to the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

Above: Green Ringtail Possum in rainforest at Mt Hypipamee on the Atherton Tableland.

Below left: Massive riparian damage from recent floods on Little Yabba Creek in the Mary Valley.

[Photos: Susie Duncan]

The importance of removing this toxic plant was highlighted recently when we located a massive Richmond Birdwing Vine near Booloumba Ck. This butterfly larval food vine is probably the source of many birdwing butterflies seen in the area.

Another plus for Hinterland Bush Links is the acquisition of an excellent range of planting and weeding tools for Roving Restorers. This was courtesy of a grant from Sunshine Coast Council and will support the good work being carried out by volunteers to assist landholders in the region. Many thanks to Kim Holcroft, Daryl Reinke and Craig Hosmer for their role in securing these tools.

Hinterland Bush Links will be involved with Council's 'Big Day Out' at Kirbys Rd Environmental Reserve, Obi Obi, on 23 April. This reserve was purchased through the SCC Environment Levy in 2011 and provides a key linkage between Kondalilla and Maleny National Parks. Everyone is welcome to join in with tree-planting on the creek and a range of guided walks – see booking arrangements in the Hinterland Bush Links events listing on page 7 in this newsletter.

The recent storms brought a deluge down Little Yabba Creek at Cambroon so our Bushcare group has lost a big chunk of the reserve. Almost all the trees along the creek have been flattened and a broad gravel shoal replaces the riparian banks and vegetation. We are wondering whether the steep cleared slopes upstream have contributed to the rapid run-off. On a more cheerful note, the natural regeneration in the weeded sections of the reserve is booming.

So don't forget to liberate some of your own native seedlings from marauding weeds through the wet weather. Good connecting!

SURVIVED THE BLAST

NURSERY NEWS by Fuschia Collard

How are you all going out there? Hope you all fared as well as we did at the Barung nursery in the aftermath of our visit from Oswald. We battened down the hatches as best we could on the Friday before and asked the nature spirits to look after the rest.

Most people know how windy Porters Lane can be at the best of times, so when I gingerly approached the nursery on that Monday afternoon, I half expected the worst.

As I stood there in the pouring rain I could hardly believe my eyes. There was no damage to any infrastructure, the forest was still standing, no plants had blown off the benches, the electrical wires and our humble donga were all where they were supposed to be. Only one smallish limb had fallen off Mrs Watkinsiana (the giant fig in the middle of the nursery) that caused any damage.

So all in all we only lost about 10 native tubes! It was a miracle. This meant we could open on the Wednesday, business as usual. I have since heard of other nurseries around Beenleigh and Logan who lost over $50 000 worth of stock. We have been extremely lucky.

Weeding Working Bees – Friday 15th March

With the wet weather here and still a little warm summer air around, it quickly became prime growing season and the weeds were the first to take advantage!

We have had two volunteer Weeding Working Bees to help with the onslaught. It has been a great success. Thank you so much to all of you who came, especially the ones who braved the wet weather!

One more working bee should see us clear the worst of the weeds. So if you can spare a couple of hours on **Friday 15th March** we would love to see you. We will continue weeding the tubestock so no bending is required. **We will start at 8 am – and finish with a cuppa at 10 am**.

We do however work in all weather! So if it's raining remember to wear your best wet weather gear, including gumboots if you have them! Anyone who would like to stay after morning tea is of course welcome.

Please ring me on 0429 943 152, Wednesday to Friday between 9 am and 3 pm to register.

(We are also starting to prepare plants for the Maleny Wood Expo. Hmmm, maybe we could have another working bee in April to help with that…)

A fine time for planting!

It is wonderful to see so many of you have started planting again. You can see our latest stock list on the Barung Landcare website under 'Nursery'.

We have some lovely *Acmena smithii* varieties, plenty of healthy Muttonwood (*Myrsine variabilis)* and Smooth Psychotria *(Psychotria daphnoides)*, heaps of Common Juncus (*Juncus usitatus)*, lots of lomandra (*L. longifolia* and *L. hystrix)* and way more. Over 140 species in total. Not bad for a little local Landcare group, hey!

Remember to plant wisely. A long lived tree deserves a long lived life. Some of our trees can live to more than 800 years of age. (Isn't that awesome!) They provide much needed highways and homes for many varieties of flora and fauna.

Please consider giving them the space they need to live out a full and fruitful life. So rather than leaving somebody else with a hefty tree lopping bill we can leave a legacy for many future generations, of all different kinds of species, to come.

Giant Tallowwood near Dorrigo, NSW. Estimated to be around 1000 years old.

[Photo: Ewald Schober]

REMEMBER:

Land for Wildlife vouchers are due before 31st May.

BARUNG RESOURCE CENTRE

Shop 3, Riverside Centre, Maleny

MON to FRI: 9 am – 4 pm

5494 3151

info@barunglandcare.org.au

BARUNG NURSERIES

0429 943 152

nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

MALENY Nursery

Porters Lane, North Maleny

WED to FRI: 9 am – 3 pm

LANDSBOROUGH Nursery

135 Forestry Road, Landsborough

VOLLIES NEEDED

MALENY & LANDSBOROUGH!

Volunteer numbers at our **MALENY NURSERY** are very low at the moment, so if you are able to help out we would love to hear from you!

Come along and learn something of our local flora and how to grow it. We need people to help with duties from tubing up seedlings through to stocking our sales area. There is always plenty of weeding to do. We also need people to wash and sterilise tubes for reuse.

The reward: great company, and knowing you are helping to restore the rainforest of the Blackall Range.

Days at the **MALENY NURSERY** are Wednesday to Friday, between 8.30 am and 3.30 pm. Call **Fuschia on 0429 943 152** if you can help.

Volunteers are also needed for our **LANDSBOROUGH NURSERY** – mainly Thursday at the moment, but hopefully other days in the near future. Call **Wayne on 0429 943 153** if you are interested in helping.

NATIVE CASCARILLA

Croton verreauxii

Family: Euphorbiaceae

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

To most people the name 'croton' would bring thoughts of the flamboyantly colourful leaves of the various cultivars of croton popular as garden plants in tropical Australia, and native to southern India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the western Pacific Ocean islands. These crotons actually belong to the related genus *Codiaeum*, being varieties of the species *Codiaeum variegatum*.

There are however six species within the genus *Croton* which occur in south-east Queensland. They are *Croton arronychioides, C. insularis, C. mamillatus, C. phebalioides, C. stigmatosus*, and *C. verreauxii*. These species are not as flamboyant as their cousins.

Croton verreauxii is usually seen as a shrub or small tree to 6 m growing in dryer rainforest and rainforest margins. Older trees growing within a rainforest may reach a height a 20 m. It may be found in dry, littoral, and subtropical rainforests from near Kiama in New South Wales to Kin Kin in south-east Queensland.

The trunk is often crooked and branched from near ground, with dark brown, finely fissured bark. The glossy green leaves are thin and smooth textured, ovate to elliptic, alternate, 6–12 cm long,

Top: Close up of fruit capsules; note how the capsules are at the lower end of the raceme. Bottom: Growth habit; older leaves turning orange before falling.
[Photos by Doug Blanch, Booroobin]

and are usually finely toothed although sometimes entire. Older leaves turn bright orange before falling.

Slender racemes of small (4 mm diameter) yellow–green flowers are carried during summer. The racemes are around 3–5 cm long, with the lower flowers mainly female and the upper flowers male. Fruit are a three-lobed green to orange–brown capsule to 6 mm in diameter, generally ripening April to September.

Propagation by seed is slow, so patience is required. Collect the capsules when ripe – this is probably best judged by closely watching the bush. Once some capsules are beginning to open, pick any that appear to be reaching a similar stage.

Allow the capsules to dry out in an airy situation, but cover (e.g. with shadecloth) to prevent seeds being flung everywhere as the capsules explode. Collect the seeds as they are expelled and soak in water for up to a week.

Sow in seed trays and lightly cover with perlite (or similar), keep moist but not over wet. A few seeds may germinate in a month or two, but most won't germinate until midway through the following spring, when night temperatures start to warm up.

It is always worth putting the tray back once seedlings have been pricked out, because more seeds may germinate later.

HORSE HOOF FUNGUS

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

Recently I investigated some brackets growing on a few pine stumps, the remains of trees I had cut down a couple of years ago. These turned out to be parasitic fungi which have been responsible for killing many forest trees in America – members of the genus *Phellinus* or horse hoof fungus. *Phellinus* grows for many years attacking the heartwood and eventually causing the tree to break at the trunk near ground level. The tree falls over with no roots showing.

My specimens are growing on an exotic pine but *Phellinus* will also attack other trees such as eucalypts, acacias, casuarinas and some rainforest trees. Identifying the different species is difficult. However they tend to be host specific, meaning a certain species will grow on only one kind of tree.

Horse Hoof Fungus. *[Photo: Gretchen Evans]*

My photo shows a relatively young group which may develop the typical horse hoof shape later on. The fruiting bodies are extremely hard and can grow for up to 20 years reaching up to 70 cm in diameter. Colour can be grey or brown. The brackets have concentrically ridged layers almost like annual growth rings, bearing pores on their lower surface.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Eric Anderson

After a dry start to the year conditions changed rapidly when ex-cyclone Oswald passed through our area over the last weekend in January. It wreaked havoc in the landscape, dumping 700 plus mm of rain and leaving many businesses and residences without power for four or more days.

At Barung we were fortunate our nurseries received little damage. At the Porter's Lane nursery in North Maleny there was some concern about 'the fig tree', but fortunately it only shed copious leaves and a few small branches – most of the clean-up activities have involved righting the many tubed plants that had been blown over.

There was also little damage to the vegetation at the Landsborough nursery although we did receive a slight tear in the roof of one of the propagation tunnels. On the positive side, all of our tanks (and dam), including a recently installed donated water tank, were filled with water.

For any members who received damage as a result of Oswald's passing, I suggest you visit the websites of the local regional groups – SEQ Catchments (**www.seqcatchments.com.au**) and the Burnett Mary Regional Group (**www.bmrg.org.au**) – where you can find the latest news and information about Flood Recovery and access to assistance.

I was away most of January visiting Tasmania, where I was lucky to escape the fires. While I was away Jonathan Waites stood in for me on a bus trip, organised by SEQ catchments, highlighting some of the work being done by local Catchment Care and Landcare groups. Dignitaries on board included Andrew Powell, the Mayor and at least six Councillors. I returned in time, however, to host a visit by the Maleny Rotary Club to our Landsborough Nursery to show them around and detail some of our plans for the area.

A year ago Barung auspiced the Range Bees, a group of people concerned about the future of pollination of our food crops and the natural environment. Their focus is the nurturing and management of bees, embracing honey bees, native social stingless bees and native solitary bees. Their activities can be found listed in the Events calendar on the Barung website.

Just recently we have auspiced a second group – ***The Children's FEASTival Community Garden Project*** – more details provided on page 7 in this newsletter.

The next big event on our calendar is the ***Maleny Wood Expo*** (***4-5th May***). Planning is advancing for this event and I commend it to you.

MONTVILLE COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

Russell Family Park, Montville

Saturday 16th March 2013

9-11 am

This tree planting is part of the rainforest revegetation project to develop a rainforest educational walk in Russell Family Park.

The work is being coordinated by the Russell Family Park Rainforest Community Group with support of the Sunshine Coast Council, Maleny Lions and Barung Landcare.

Following is a free sausage sizzle provided by Maleny Lions and coffee provided by Montville Coffee.

Please register to assist catering on the Barung website **www.barunglandcare.org.au** or phone Barung on 5494 3151.

Hinterland Bush Links
connecting restoring protecting

EVENTS

First Friday of each month

Little Yabba Park Bushcare, Little Yabba Park, Cambroon in the Mary Valley, 8 am – 11 am

Members are actively restoring vegetation along the banks of Little Yabba Creek. Work activities are followed by a cuppa and a short bushwalk nearby. New members very welcome. Contact Susie Duncan on ***5429 6622***.

Sunday 24 March

Roving Restorers,
Burgum Rd, Nth Maleny, 8.30 am – 12 pm

Join us for some hand weeding and planting at this property on a beautiful stretch of the Obi. We will have a picnic at the creek and you can enjoy some great swimming holes – bring your togs if you wish to swim. Car pool at the back of the IGA carpark in Maleny at 8.00 am for an 8.30 am start. See further information in ***Roving Restorers Notes*** below.

Saturday 13 April

Roving Restorers,
Egerton Nature Refuge, Montville, 9 am – 12 pm

Join us in planting food vines for the threatened Richmond Birdwing Butterfly on a small creek near Lake Baroon. There will be some weeding involved to prepare for planting. Car pool at the back of the IGA carpark in Maleny at 8.30 am or travel independently (call ***5429 6622*** for directions) for a 9 am start.

ROVING RESTORERS NOTES

Morning tea provided. All tools will be provided. Bring gloves, water, lunch, boots, long-sleeved shirt and trousers, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Please register at Barung Landcare on ***5494 3151*** or www.barunglandcare.org.au

Tuesday 23 April

Big Day Out at Kirbys Road Environmental Reserve, Obi Obi

Hinterland Bush Links is joining Sunshine Coast Council in an information and restoration day at one of Council's newest reserves. Kirbys Road Environmental Reserve is 213 ha in extent and provides a key habitat linkage between Kondalilla and Maleny National Parks. You are very welcome to join in with tree-planting on the creek and a range of guided walks. Lunch and transport will be provided but places are limited.

For further details and to book in: phone ***5475 8851*** or email ComConservPartnerships@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

CHILDREN'S FEASTIVAL COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

by Jonathan Waites

We are pleased to announce that the Children's Garden Project instigated by Kate and Madhu Kazony will be under the auspices of Barung.

This project is already up and running (have a look at the block behind Maple Street Co-op and above the Co-op Community Garden) with a fine crop of sunflowers and other groundcovers established on the newly terraced slope. The terraces incorporate logs from trees cut on the site to allow greater sun access. The landscaping is designed to move water across the slope so that soil loss is minimised when it rains.

The Children's FEASTival Garden Project is an educational program introducing children to community gardening via after-school sessions offered over 10 weeks during the school term. The program is targeted towards primary school children and will be run twice a week between 3.45 – 4.45 pm. A session for preschool children is run during school hours. A mix of flowers, herbs and vegetables are being grown.

If you are interested or would just like to find out more about the project Kate and Madhu can be contacted on ***0468 434 972*** or ***0468 428 190*** or email mrmogi@familyfeastival.com.au

Kate and Madhu will be running a couple of gardening workshops on-site in the near future. I'll let you know when dates have been confirmed.

Meanwhile, if you think you might be interested in attending or have some suggestions for gardening workshop topics that would interest you, please contact Jonathan Waites or the Barung office on ***5494 3151***.

Kate and Madhu of the Children's FEASTival Family Garden Project on-site in front of Lindsay Muir's "Grevillea" sculpture.

A FANTASTIC FUN FROG WORKSHOP

by Jonathan Waites

Barung hosted its first frog workshop just after the end of the January deluge. This proved to be good timing because prior to the rain frogs were a bit light on the pond, or anywhere else for that matter.

This workshop, presented by that master of amphibian wildlife, Eva Ford from the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, was part of our Maleny Community Precinct Biodiversity Monitoring and Community Engagement project, a Community Action Grant funded through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program.

Matt Bateman from Barung gave us a run-down on the project's objectives, which are to gather base-line data on the ecological state of the Maleny Community Precinct while involving interested local members of the community in on-going monitoring activities. With this data in hand, we will be able to track and record environmental changes on the site over time. During their intial survey, Matt and Eva turned up two Giant Barred-frogs, a male and a female. This was exciting on two counts; the species is listed as endangered (under the EPBC Act) and this is its first recorded sighting on Obi Obi Creek.

Eva described frog identification features and showed photos of species that have been found in our area and their preferred habitat. She also educated and entertained us with her repertoire of frog calls. Did you know that only the males call in Australia? The best time to watch frogs is usually at night – particularly still nights after rain, without a moon, during the breeding season. A torch is a pre-requisite. Head torches with LED lights that can change focus are particularly useful – some brands available on-line are quite cheap. It is often handy to have a friend along so you can pinpoint the position of a serenading frog by approaching it from different directions; some species are particularly well camouflaged and/or capable of ventriloquism.

We walked along the Obi Boardwalk (partly in the rain) and recorded five species: Great Barred-frog, Striped Marshfrog, Stony-creek Frog, Graceful Treefrog and Cane Toad (introduced). You may find some of these frogs on your own frog hunts. Keep your eye (and ears) out for Giant Barred-frog (endangered), Tusked Frog (vulnerable) and Cascade Treefrog (vulnerable) which occur in our area. You might be lucky!

If you missed out on this workshop we are hoping to run another one in March, with the date yet to be set. To register, go to Events and Workshops on the Barung website and scroll down (perhaps to the bottom) to the Frog Identification Workshop Expressions of Interest listing. We will let you know the date when it has been confirmed.

Barung Resource Centre in the Riverside Centre has a number of publications to help you identify the squarking, hopping, bug-eyed beastie in your pond, creek or swamp, including field guides from $10 to $45, a frog attracting garden guide and a CD of frog calls.

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

www.barunglandcare.org.au

WHERE DO I START?

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

The long, hot dry followed by the wild wet certainly created a few challenges and sorting out the ornamental garden is not much different from prioritising a revegetation program. Don't try to do it all at once!

There will be weeding (no surprises there), pruning (the trees seem to think it's spring again), replacing the plants which didn't survive, mowing for those who have lawns, breaking up and scattering fallen branches, possibly some erosion control with future heavy rain in mind, and the list goes on. Since it is a long list, it's useful to write down the individual tasks. The length of the list will no doubt be daunting but there's satisfaction in crossing off completed jobs. Inevitably, at the end of the day some of the planned jobs will have been done, and possibly twice as many unplanned jobs, but progress will have been made.

Don't forget also that despite the long list of must-do's there will be a few want-to-do's such as planting an unexpected space with an attractive shrub or perhaps fern. The soil is soft for a change so while it's possible to dig a hole, intersperse the must-do's with a few things which give pleasure. It's worth it.

And now that the ground no longer resembles concrete, it's worth doing a quick survey for weedy vine seedlings such as glycine and removing them before they start to climb. Even well-rooted plants are relatively easy to pull out. There will also be seedlings of the thorny devil's claw fig which of course is not a fig but a Solanum. These are much easier to pull when they are small so prioritise the weeding.

Growth will be rapid with the heat and moisture. A Grumichama which suffered heat and wind damage but is now covered in flower and leaf buds has been halved in height. This will both tidy it up and reduce the amount of potentially inaccessible fruit which would be spread by the birds. Pruning and weed avoidance together. A Curry Leaf plant, *Murraya koenigii*, has been attacked in similar fashion. Any damaged branches need to be cut back to create a clean wound rather than the tear which will be more vulnerable to fungal invasion.

It's an excellent time to tip prune natives with lots of soft new growth. It will help them to bush up and improve flowering next spring. Most plants in the ornamental garden did survive the extremes nature threw at them but the few that really suffered have been noted and probably won't be tried again. It was hoped that some of the self-sown *Psychotria loniceroides* which looked severely stressed would self-destruct but they all came back to life within 24 hours of the rain so their numbers will now have to be actively reduced.

There were some surprises such as a *Phebalium woombye* planted in heavy soil which survived and thrived, due no doubt in part to receiving regular irrigation run-off from a large planter box. Nothing kills some natives faster than a sudden change in soil moisture levels; from very dry to very wet or the reverse. Their root systems just cannot cope.

On a final note, the double planted and deep rooted *Syzygium australe* windbreak did an excellent job of protecting the main garden. Individual trees dropped leaves during the heat but they will come back. In our climate, a good windbreak is a good investment.

COLLECTABLE NOW & SOON

SEED NOTES by Diana O'Connor

The recent seeding of Purple Cherry *Syzygium crebrinerve* just before the rain came was prolific. One path in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve must have had several thousand fruits on the track itself. Interestingly another tree that had fruited in 2012 dropped no fruit. Floyd in his book described how insects destroy most seed in some years. This year's crop seems to be mainly free of insects. Perhaps the long dry spell had an effect. *S. crebrinerve* seeds begin to germinate after about 50 days but it may be 300 days before germination is complete, which is why it is often not available from the nursery.

Piccabeen Palms *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* are fruiting now. Please only collect from trees that are well away from gardens because hybrids of Alexandra Palm *A. alexandrae* and Piccabeens can occur. Alexandra palms only occur naturally north from Eurimbula (near Gladstone). Source trees need to be in a natural creek area well out in the bush.

This year Yellow Carabeen *Sloanea woolsii,* Oliver's sassafras *Cinnamonum oliveri* and Hoop Pine *Auracaria cunninghamii* are all later to ripen than in recent years. All are valued, so get them if you can.

The little shrub Midyim *Austromyrtus dulcis* will be fruiting in the coming period. An excellent bush tucker fruit, it is very high in Vitamin C and (with its purple spots I would expect anti-oxidants). We would appreciate fruit please. It is a delightful plant in small gardens and bears white flowers.

White Beech *Gmelina leichhardtii* is thick with fruit near us at Flaxton. The fruit turn purple when ripe and can be collected from the ground under the tree. If it is collected fresh it needs to be soaked immediately and the flesh removed from the seed. If the fruit are collected some time after falling, the flesh will be very hard and may need to be soaked for many weeks before it can be shelled. White Beech is another very slow-to-germinate seed, usually well over 5 months. The wood of this tree is excellent for building and is resistant to termites. Many old homesteads in the area were constructed from this species, including Pattemore House.

WANTED

for the Barung Office, please

a SHREDDER

preferably straight cut (so the output can be reused as packaging) and taking 7 or more pages.

Much appreciated!

From top: Ripe Purple Cherry fruit on the ground. Ripe White Beach fruit. Yellow Carabeen capsules with ripe seeds.

[Photos: Eric Anderson]

MAGPIE-LARK

BIRDS OF THE BLACKALL RANGE

by Eric Anderson

The Magpie-lark, Mudlark or Peewee is a well-known black and white, small magpie-like bird. Its name is a little misleading as it is not related to either a magpie or a lark but more closely related to the Monarch Flycatchers.

The male has a black throat and white eyebrow while the female has a white face and throat and no white eyebrow (see photos). The adults have white eyes and bills while the juveniles look similar to the adult female but have a dark eye and bill.

Magpie-lark male (above) and female (left).
[Photos: Eric Anderson]

They are found throughout most of Australia, particularly on the plains, pastures and cleared areas, provided that surface water is available for constructing its mud nest. Magpie-larks are also common in most towns and cities. They are endemic to the Australian mainland, although also found in New Guinea.

The magpie-lark's loud calls are also well known and it is one of the few species to sing in duet. The pair stand near each other at a favourite vantage point in their territory, alternatively calling rapidly and raising their wings above their heads as they call. In pastoral country, territories are up to 8 hectares in area.

The magpie-lark feed mainly on small insects from pasture and muddy areas. It is a useful species, as it feeds on many species of harmful insects. It also eats the freshwater snail that harbours the fluke parasite which causes damage to the liver in sheep and cattle.

Magpie-larks pair for life and will nest in the same place over successive years. The nest is a mud bowl built onto a fairly stout branch or limb, and usually near or overhanging water. Very frequently a Willie Wagtail will build its nest on a lower branch of the same tree or one nearby. Three to six white to pinkish or reddish-white eggs are laid, usually from August to February, although in the inland this egg-laying can occur in most months after rain. Both parents share the incubation duties which last for 18 days.

Post-breeding flocks are sometimes large and roost together at night – there are records of 500 birds, but 30–50 is probably more common.

The Sustainable Weeding Guide

is available to members of The Weed's Network, headed by David Low of Monash University via

www.weedsnetwork.com

The Sustainable Weeding Guide covers:

- Cultural weed management methods
- Direct weed management methods
- Revegetation weed management methods
- Aquatic weed management methods
- Organic weed management
- Biodynamic weed management
- Weeds as resource/Beneficial weeds
- Crop specific weed management
- Species specific weed management
- Weeds and herbicides
- Products and services directories.

The Weed's Network also produces weekly *The Weed's News*, an email digest covering world research into weeds, offered free to interested subscribers.

CONGRATULATIONS NOOSA LANDCARE

On Friday 25th January 2013 the Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) announced the winners of this year's Australia Day awards. Noosa & District Landcare Group was given the Environment Award in recognition of its outstanding contribution to conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the region's environmental values.

Congratulations to Noosa Landcare on this acknowledgement of your good works.

Anita Russell (Noosa Landcare Waterwatch) and Phil Moran (Noosa Landcare General Manager) with the Australia Day Environment Award.

FAREWELL TO CLARE AND KERRY

by Wayne Webb

After more than five years of dedicated service, Kerry and Clare Slugget have decided it's time to move on to the next phase of their lives – knowing them I don't think it could be called retirement! Kerry technically retired some time back, but he still has been coming in to help out at times.

They both have given incredible service to Barung Landcare and the nursery, way beyond that required of them. Both helped enormously with our move out to Porters Lane. Prior to moving, Clare helped Dawn by packing up anything and everything, while Kerry was helping to pull down the shade houses and combining the bits and pieces to erect a bigger one on our 'temporary' site. Both worked tirelessly on the day of the move, with Clare providing yummies for morning tea. After the move Clare again put in many hours helping Dawn to sort out all the tubestock, as the guys set to trying to keep ahead of them with bench building.

Clare and Kerry were always the first to come forward to help out with events. Be it Wood Expo, the Nambour Garden Expo, or simply getting plants ready for the Witta markets, Clare was always on top of it. She would start getting plants aside and labelled well before Expo each year, and heaven help anyone who touched them!

Clare is an early riser, and often she would bake a batch of scones before coming in to the nursery. These will be missed! Clare was also very good at taking new vollies under her wing, and provided a great role model for younger people.

Kerry has always been eager to lend a hand, be it moving plants around, fixing a leaking pipe or building a shade house. It took me some time to convince Kerry not to run everywhere, he was that eager.

Kerry and Clare, you will both be sorely missed. It has been a privilege to work with you and to call you friends.

Clare and Kerry Slugget received Barung's Volunteers of the Year Award in 2009, presented by Barung President Eric Anderson.

Good bye from Clare

Yes it's true, Clare has hung up her secateurs and gloves!

Thank you Wayne for the many much needed cups of coffee, often life-saving!

Thank you Fuschia for your cheerfulness.

Thank you Matt and your team, you were often the very first smiling faces I'd see on those cold early morning starts.

A huge thank you to the volunteers with whom I have worked over the past six years. We have had some interesting, sometimes frustrating but very happy times at the nursery, I shall miss you all.

To the customers, thank you for your patience in sales when I didn't always have the knowledge required for you.

To Barung as a whole, thank you. I have appreciated the opportunity to be your volunteer, the learning and friendships made. Kerry and I are off to face some new challenges. We shall miss all interactions with all the Barung people.

We wish Barung all the very best for the future, we shall as always continue to promote Barung wherever we are. God bless, farewell, and many thanks to you all.

Clare and Kerry Slugget

THANK YOU TO ...

… ***Maleny Grove*** for the donation of one 4-drawer and one 2-drawer filing cabinet plus folders, etc, which we will put to good use in the nursery office in Landsborough (see photo below)

… ***Daryl Reinke***, ***Craig Hosmer***, ***Eric Anderson*** and ***Diana O'Connor*** for their kind and generous donations towards new nursery bench tops for the Landsborough Wholesale Nursery

… ***Monique and Graham Bond*** for your donation to Barung

… the ***Maleny Community Centre*** and ***Peter Milton*** for two swivel brochure display stands on wheels, which will be used at the Resource Centre and the Nursery

… ***Rod Castle*** for the donation of a posthole digger which Contracting will put to good use.

OUR NEW WORLD

by Jonathan Waites

After six months of less than average rainfall, followed by a summer which had temperature records being broken around the country and (for a period) over one hundred bushfires burning in New South Wales, we had a deluge brought on courtesy of (ex-) Cyclone Oswald, giving rise to a 'one hundred year event' flood within two years of the last episode. And the message is – get used to it.

A report released last month by the Climate Commission (headed by Professor Tim Flannery) entitled *Off the charts: Extreme Australian summer heat*:

http://climatecommission.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CC_Jan_2013_Heatwave4.pdf

has four key messages arising from the recent heat wave:

- The length, extent and severity of the heat wave is unprecedented in the measurement record.
- Heat waves, hot days and bushfires occur naturally in Australia; however climate change is increasing the risk of more frequent and longer heat waves, more extreme hot days and the exacerbation of bushfire conditions.
- Climate Change has contributed to making the current extreme heat conditions and bushfires worse.
- Good community understanding of climate change risks is critical to ensuring appropriate action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to put measures in place to prepare for, and to respond to, extreme weather.

This heat wave was different from the usual due to its extent (it affected over 70% of Australia) and duration (seven consecutive days with area-average maximum temperatures above 39°C from 2–8 January).

The local outcome from the high rainfall and winds that struck me most is the fragility of our energy supply and communications systems. I'm not sure what the direct causes were but the effects were obvious. For local businesses it was the loss of produce due to spoilage and an inability to trade; for householders reliant on pressure pumps it meant tanks full of inaccessible water, not to mention the lack of power for refrigeration, cooking and lighting.

For some reason I expected mobile phones would just keep working and the internet would be fine if I had a generator. Not so; and Telstra still hasn't gotten our landline working. It would seem it's definitely worth spending some time on consideration of measures that lead to greater self-reliance in times of natural disaster (if 'natural' is actually the correct descriptor).

This would be one adaptive response on an individual level. However we need appropriate adaptations on regional, national and global scales, as well as in areas such as agriculture, housing and water use.

People like Bill McKibben (*Eaarth: Making life on a tough new planet*) believe that the climate has changed irrevocably and that adaptation to our new planet is the name of the game now; adaption to heatwaves, flooding, interruption/failure of services, extreme weather events.

We also need to adopt measures to reduce the rate of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions to our already dangerously overloaded atmosphere. 350ppm is the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO_2) in our atmosphere that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit to avoid runaway climate change. We are currently running at 392ppm. As a society we need to adopt cleaner energy generation technology and leave the vast majority of the remaining fossil fuels in the ground.

However the problem isn't just our deteriorating climate. Systemic collapse is occurring globally – an outdated economic system focused on growth continues to transfer wealth (and therefore resources) to an elite minority, aided by a political system run by and for the benefit of the aforementioned minority, trying to prop up a disintegrating social system, all of which is putting unbearable pressure on our no longer stable (relatively for the last 10 000 years) climate system.

There is a lot we can do, in many different areas of activity. How much we achieve will determine the kind of planet we have for the rest of our lives and leave to our descendants for generations to come.

Welcome to our brave new world – with a climate made by you and me.

ONLINE OFFERINGS

- Johan Rockstrom: Let the environment guide our development (on planetary boundaries)
  www.ted.com/talks/johan_rockstrom_let_the_environment_guide_our_development.html
- Geoff Lawton – Interesting first in a series of free Permaculture DVDs
  www.geofflawton.com/sq/15449-geoff-lawton
- 300 Years of Fossil Fuels in 300 Seconds
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJ-J91SwP8w
- Australian East Coast Flooding – January 2013 – Radar and Satellite Timelapse
  www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Q40eZmrNGjA
- Why we need to care more about soil when discussing global warming
  www.papermag.com/2013/01/why_we_need_to_care_more_about.php
- Climate Change Impacts in Australia – The Environment Quarter ABC
  www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-21/the-environment-quarter/4474322
- Renewables now cheaper than coal and gas in Australia
  www.reneweconomy.com.au/2013/renewables-now-cheaper-than-coal-and-gas-in-australia-62268
- ABC Landline - *Soil Secrets*. An interesting report on advances being made in the field of soil
  www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2012/s3630158.htm
- Teresa Anderson – *Riding the Wave: How Transition towns are changing the world and having fun*
  www.whatnext.org/resources/Publications/Volume-III/Single-articles/wnv3_anderson_transition_144.pdf
- Let's Talk About Soil. A great animation about the threats to soil – urbanization, degradation, exploitation, erosion, etc.
  http://vimeo.com/53618201

LANDSBOROUGH NURSERY
Quick facts

- Wayne's new bench in the shadehouse will hold 4200 tubes.
- There will be 20 benches (eventually) in the shadehouse = 84 000 tubes when it is full (this doesn't include the growing out area or propagation tunnel).
- Because our water tanks collect rain water off the roofs of some of the sheds, we haven't had to run the diesel pump to bring water up from the dam since before the rain.

One of our regular vollies, Grant, who together with James (not in photo) has been digging up this patch of Fishbone Fern Nephrolepis cordifolia *and Agave* Agave vivipara *at our Amigh Road entrance.*

...barely managing to keep ahead of the potting-up team supplying the shade-house

Allan, James and Grant begin loading up another new bench in the shadehouse.

Our donated tank is now connected and full of rain water.

We've started burying the pipeline that brings water up from the dam.

STOP PRESS

Barung has just received a $2500 grant through the Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) program from the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

This will help us keep the office door open, the rent paid and the phone answered!

The GVESHO program provides administrative support to national, state, regional and local environment, sustainability and heritage not-for-profit organisations to contribute towards their administrative costs.

The Barung Store

Riverside Centre, Maleny
and online at
www.barunglandcare.org.au

Support Barung Landcare through your Business

More information and forms available at the Barung Landcare Resource Centre

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www.barunglandcare.org.au

FLOOD ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Collated on the SEQCatchments Website at

www.seqcatchments.com.au/news/2013-flood-information

LETTER

Dear Barung team,

I am writing to let you know we are resigning from Barung Landcare because we have sold our 10 acres, Bondage, at Carters Ridge, Cooroy. We tried for nearly 2 years to sell to committed people who wanted to continue on looking after the trees but eventually had to sell to people who loved the house and will enjoy looking at the trees. I am fairly confident they will not cut them all down!

So we would like to thank all the people who have contributed so much to Barung Landcare over the years. We have appreciated all the input and hard work so many people have put into the environment in the area.

Anyway the years have crept up on us and after 28 years of turning lantana, groundsel and Noogoora burr into native woodland, we have had to retire to easier living conditions in Brisbane.

We have enjoyed your newsletters and the annual Wood Expo and occasionally dropping into the nursery. Graham will be putting a donation into your bank account as a small thank you to you all.

Best wishes, Monique and Graham Bond

State of the Environment Queensland 2011 report

www.ehp.qld.gov.au/state-of-the-environment/report-2011

The findings in the report detail Queensland's air quality and climate, water and aquatic ecosystems, coastal environments, land and biodiversity, invasive species and diseases, cultural heritage and human settlements, as well as natural and man-made disasters.

Full copy of the Report is available on CD:
Phone **13 74 68** or email **soe.reporting@ehp.qld.gov.au**

BARUNG LANDCARE

New Members

Antara May
Anthony Ross
John Geyl
Lauren Coman
Linda McKee
Marilyn Fisher
Peter Ryan
Dave and Diane Graves
Geraldine Butler-Fitzgerald
Nancy & Malcom Baker
Sue and Trevor M'Cleary
Tony Sams
Wil Elgey

Rejoining Members

Elaine Green
Janette Bell
Keith Dodds
Malcolm Cox
Pam Walker
Pauline Rigby
Suzanne White
Michael Berry & Faith Baigent
Bill & Diane Phillips
Todd & Christy Samorowski

Something about Mary

Book and poster

An inspiring and educational perspective on the Mary River and its remarkable inhabitants.

Available on the MRCCC Website - follow the links from the home page - **www.mrccc.org.au**

Also available in hardcopy, full colour gloss with a cardboard cover, for $5.50 from Barung Landcare.

2013 QUEENSLAND LANDCARE CONFERENCE

27-29 September 2013, Warwick

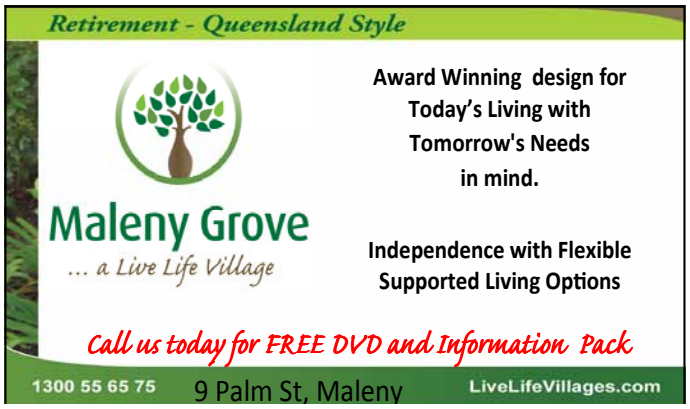
Condamine Headwaters Landcare will host the 24th annual Queensland Landcare Conference with the theme *healthy habitats ... profitable production*, bringing together land managers, landcare workers, extension staff, researchers and policy workers to explore landcare trends and sustainable farming into the future.

The three day event will feature keynote presentations, interactive workshops, skills building, field trips, social networking opportunities, exhibitions from suppliers and partners and a dedicated Junior Landcare stream to coincide with school holidays.

Registrations open in April but sponsorship opportunities are available now! More info:

Conference website **http://tinyurl.com/landcare2013**

Condamine Headwaters Landcare on ***07 4661 9909*** or **catherine@ddrlandcare.org**



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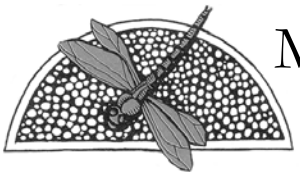

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SUPPORT Barung Landcare through YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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 SPONSOR $275 pa

Business Sponsors ($275/year) are entitled to

- a business card size advert in Barung's bimonthly newsletter x 6 issues
- acknowledgement of your support at Barung displays
- three (3) free trees, and
- membership discounts on plant purchases in the Nursery.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTOR $ 55 pa

Business Contributors ($55/year) are entitled to

- listing in the Barung News as a business contributor
- acknowledgement of your support at Barung displays
- three (3) free trees, and
- membership discounts on plant purchases in the Nursery.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Suncoast Hardwoods
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South East Land Repair
eContent & Life Artistry
Northey Street City Farm
Ananda Marga River School
Montville Village Real Estate
Range Auto & Fuel Injection Centre
Family FEASTival
Habitat Support
Lapmist Pty Ltd
Earthcarer

Barung gratefully acknowledges these organisations for their partnerships & support:

Sunshine Coast Council

Maleny SUPA IGA

Montville Coffee

Community CBC Benefit Club

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

Hinterland Business Centre

HQPlantations

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Landcare Australia

Queensland Water and Land Carers QWaLC

Maleny District Green Hills Fund

LANDCARE QUEENSLAND

SEQ Catchments
Healthy land – healthy water

Burnett Mary Regional Group
...for Natural Resource Management Inc

Gambling Community Benefit Fund
Queensland Government

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

THE BARUNG FAMILY

BARUNG 2012/13 VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	*Eric Anderson*
Vice President	*Lin Fairlie*
Secretary	*Karen Binstead*
Treasurer	*David Binstead*
Committee Members	*Glen Donoghoe*
	Martina Gordon
	Diana O'Connor
	Raine See

BARUNG STAFF

Barung Resource Centre & Projects

Jonathan Waites	Projects Officer
Steve McLeish	Barung Events
Kellie Huddy	Administration
Den Lalor	P/T Admin/Project Support Officer
Eve Witney	Editor, *Barung News* and *The CODLine*

Barung Nurseries

Wayne Webb	Nursery Manager
Fuschia Collard	Assistant Nursery Manager

Barung Contracting Services

Matthew Bateman	Manager
Kate Brooks	Team Leader
Josh Rennie-Hynes	Team Leader

And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members