

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

June - July 2007



THANK YOU!

by Jane Williamson

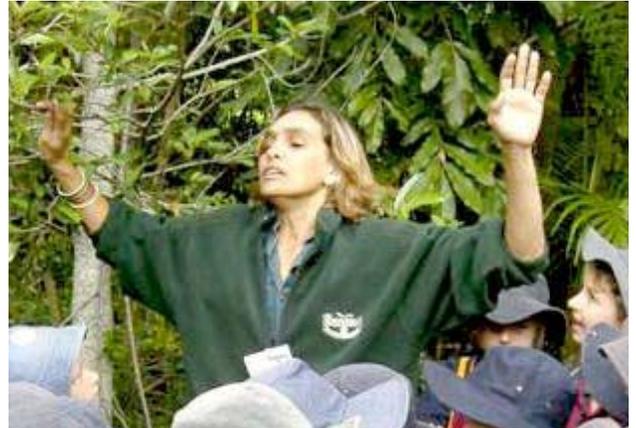
To celebrate National Volunteers week (14–20 May), we have been showing our appreciation to our many wonderful and valued volunteers. On Wednesday 16th May, Lynn from Mystic Mountain Tours drove a group of 19 of our vollies and CJP Team members out to Kenilworth for a visit to Witjuti Grub Bushfood Nursery, on Walli Creek Road. Graeme White and his dog 'Bunya' spent several hours showing us their beautiful nursery and explaining the varieties of bushfood trees and shrubs and their uses. After morning tea we were shown the greenhouses, full of very healthy looking plants. We were so inspired with our new knowledge that some of us bought starter kits, containing enough plants to keep us busy!

Along the way, Steve Mallet (CJP Team leader) kept us informed and entertained on the bus with his wealth of local knowledge and memories. Steve's recommendation to have the picnic lunch at Mapleton Falls was a great idea and everyone was ready for a little rest by then!

A good time was had by all and it was lovely to see old friends meeting up, as our vollies don't always see much of each other, due to working on different days.

Thank you, vollies. Barung couldn't do without you!

Below: Vollies Day-out picnic at Mapleton Falls; Right: Bunya's merry grin. [Photos by Jane Williamson]



CONGRATULATIONS BEVERLY HAND!

by Fuschia Collard

'A Hand in the Bush is Worth Two Birds to the BMRG'

A new era has begun, thanks to the passion and dedication of one woman. Beverly Hand came to Barung some 14 months ago with a drive to make a change. She commenced work as a trainee in the Barung Nursery. While she was committed to her new job, it soon became apparent that her extraordinary talents could not be ignored. Bev's deep love of the land, her indigenous wisdom and knowledge, and her passion to educate, became obvious. In the short time Beverly was with us, she manifested her dream of the Bunya Dreaming (an awesome event, not experienced in over a hundred years, as you've already heard), she led 'Walking the Women' groups across the Blackall Range and beyond, and educated everyone from politicians to five-year-olds. Bev opened up a whole new world for all of those around her.

It didn't take long for others in our region to also recognise Beverly's talents ...

So it is with great joy and a little sadness that we congratulate Beverly on her appointment as Aboriginal and Indigenous Coordinator for the Burnett Mary Regional Group.

Now her message can be heard across a much bigger arena.

We wish Beverly all the best and will continue to support her on the next leg (or should I say Hand) of her journey. (We are hoping Bev may still be able to work out of the Barung Resource Centre two days a week.)

Go get 'em girl!

Photo (above): Beverly Hand addresses students from Maleny Primary School.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Val Phillips)

Greg Pringle & Judy Lindsay	Rosemary Dax
Brian Germein	Pete Liehr
Ruth Wist	Iain Hauff
Greg Ivey	Barb Harrington
Bob & Connie Vigar	Chris Wease
G.H. Ulman	Dawn Worthington
George & Annette Lawniczak	Helen Graham
David Hounsome	Brian Springer
Bede & Marion Makenzie	Drew French & Juliet Yuen
Kate Lamont	Robert Dann

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

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 phone 5494 3151 or email for a form at barungadmin@big.net.au

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 gratefully acknowledges funding & sponsorships from:



Australian Government Water Fund
Community Water Grants



Threatened Species Network



An Initiative of the Maleny Credit Union



Australian Government



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



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

THE RED GOSHAWK - A RARE SIGHTING

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by *Susie Duncan*

Last month we were wallowing in the refreshing waters of the Morgan River in the sandstone landscape of the northern Kimberley. It was a relief to cool off and we were happy in the knowledge that this wasn't saltwater crocodile country.

Suddenly Barry yelled with excitement and we looked up to see a raptor (hawk-type bird) soaring away from us. It was reddish underneath, with a long tail and fingered wings. Was this the extremely rare Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*), a bird that we know hangs out on the Blackall Range?

Swimming the river with my precious binoculars aloft, Barry explored the paperbarks some distance away where the bird appeared to land.

Finally he returned with the news that it was indeed a hawk, but that the bird had a cute little crest – it was the Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*), also known as a Crested Hawk, another delightful bird that hangs out on the Blackall Range. A Baza frequented our garden in Maleny for a week last year, sitting quietly in a tall shady eucalypt and picking off stick insects and skinks that wandered into its extremely sharp view.

Two days later we were lounging on the banks of the King Edward River, having abandoned our idea of crossing this wild torrent so soon after the wet. The alarm cry went up again and against the blue savanna sky soared a larger raptor. This time we saw the clear trademarks of the Red Goshawk – rufous chest and underwings, barred primary wing feathers and tail. There was wild jubilation.

These birds live in areas with a mix of vegetation such as riparian forest, savanna and rainforest edges, usually associated with wetlands, where birdlife is abundant. They are big birds with a wingspan of over a metre, enabling them to prey on large birds such as Kookaburras and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos. Like many raptors, the male is smaller than the female.

The Red Goshawk's hunting strategy is to ambush prey by perching on a branch screened by foliage and flying fast to attack. Their large powerful legs allow them to snatch and hold birds such as ducks when they hunt across wetlands.

Their home range can vary from 50 to 220 square kilometres, depending on the abundance of prey. Red Goshawks breed during the dry season, building a large stick nest platform lined with twigs and green leaves. The nest will be located in a fork at the top of a tall tree and the same site may be used each year. One or two young are raised.

This bird is significant because there are believed to be less than a thousand birds left, making it one of the rarest raptors in the world. It is listed as endangered in Queensland and vulnerable nationally. Red Goshawks occur from north-eastern New South Wales up the east coast and across the north to the Kimberley.

The major cause of decline is believed to be land clearing, particularly of lowland riverine forests in eastern Australia. This has reduced the availability of large nesting trees as well as habitat for prey.

Addressing the decline of the Red Goshawk is not a simple task. Most efforts are being directed towards monitoring nest sites and protecting nests and habitat, including wetlands, from human disturbance.

... continued next column

Some would question why this species hasn't adapted to vegetation loss by preying on birds that have increased with landscape changes, such as Galahs, Crested Pigeons, and Pied Currawongs. Perhaps the decline was occurring before European settlement, particularly since Red Goshawks are scarce even in relatively undisturbed environments in northern Australia. Let's hope that this amazing raptor hangs in on the Blackall Range and further afield for future generations to enjoy.

FROM THE CJP 07 TEAM

by *Tom, John, Jo, Grant, Kevin, Dawn, Erin and Steve*

A group of seven unemployed people banded together under the banner of a Government-funded Community Jobs Plan program, we were led by the indomitable Steve Mallet.

Our base at Barung Landcare has provided us with a home for our forays into seed collection, mass tree planting, weed identification and removal, and observation of various terrains and vegetation types. We have been given a good understanding of the diversity of ecosystems here on the Blackall Range and surrounds.

We've enjoyed the Martin Williams Memorial Tree Plant at King's Lane and the IGA Annual Tree Plant at the Showgrounds. We have also assisted the Barung Contracting Services team with ongoing maintenance at various localities including Baroon Pocket Bushland Reserve at Montville and Pacific Plantations Macadamia Farm on Stanley River Road, and we have worked on a small number of individual landholders' properties around Maleny. We would like to thank all these landholders for the use of their equipment and their time and energy in showing us differing methods of bush regeneration and revegetation.

A big 'thank you' also goes to the unflappable Wayne, who continually answered questions ranging from 'What is this?' to 'How does that grow?' from the very first day we met him!

Our group has also ventured into landscape design and had the chance to provide better access to the Training Room at the Hinterland Business Centre. We also removed and relocated a shadehouse that was donated to Barung by Jim Gemmell and is going to be utilised at the new site.

Finally a huge 'thanks' to all those people with whom we have crossed paths. Until the next time we meet ...



WEEDS AT YOUR ROADSIDE

WEED WATCH by Lin Fairlie

Whose responsibility are the invasive weeds along your fence line?

We all know that in the theory it is either the local Council or Mains Roads Department of State Government, but ...

... So what can we do when these weeds are spreading far and wide?

The answer probably is that we should remove ALL weeds on this land and on our own land but we all know that this is often not possible for many reasons.

But if we did start to address this issue outside our own properties, the seed bank would be reduced.

Plants with wind-blown seeds are perhaps the easiest to start with, as they produce hundreds of seeds each. The green choko-like pods of Moth Vine are splitting, releasing thousands of pieces of fluff with seeds attached.

Mistweed is another one due to flower soon which has wind-blown seeds.

Weeds like Morning Glory can be spread by slashers as the long grass is cut by contractors and this is certainly aiding its spread around the Blackall Range. So killing Morning Glory adjacent to your property will be very helpful for limiting its further spread. The same could probably be said for Siratro and Desmodium.

And have you noticed those small Camphor Laurel trees blooming along many of our roadsides? Just five years ago they were tiny seedlings. So much easier to remove at that stage or when they were just tall enough to be seen over the grass.

A bit more work to tackle them now, but easier now than in another five years!

It is up to every one of us to help reduce the weed seed supply. If we put a little more consistent effort in, and maybe even helped our neighbours if necessary, there would be less weed plants along our roadsides.



IS THAT A WEED?

Council offers free Weed ID service

Caloundra City Council's Pest Management Team is encouraging landholders to continue their assault on weeds by taking advantage of its Weed Detective program – first launched during last year's Weedbuster Week and now an ongoing free service.

Residents can now submit digital photos through Council's website for identification by Council's 'weed detectives'.

The initiative – part of the Caloundra Weed Wipeout campaign – is designed to raise awareness of weeds and help residents identify problem plants before they become pests.

You can submit up to three quality digital images of the suspected weed, along with your name, contact phone number and location of the plant, by tapping into www.caloundra.qld.gov.au and clicking on the 'Weed Identification' link under the 'CityEnvironment' tab. The photos should show the suspected weed's leaves, flowers, fruit and any other distinguishing features. Include any other information that will help Council's weed detectives – such as the plant's height, whether it's a vine, shrub, tree or herb, and when and in what colour it flowers. From this, a Council weed expert will attempt to identify the weed and reply with a fact sheet, if available.

Alternatively, you can bring a weed sample (in a plastic bag) to Council's Customer Service Centre at 1 Omrah Avenue, Caloundra.

HELP SAVE the KOALA: Report Koala sightings

by Mim Coulstock

On behalf of the Australian Koala Foundation, PhD student Christine Hosking is undertaking the enormous task of updating current and historical statistics on koalas throughout the whole eastern seaboard of Australia with the assistance of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF).

Christine is seeking landholder help in collecting information (with dates) on: koala deaths; koalas released; koalas in care; koala sightings; and locations of these koalas.

According to the AKF:

- 80% of koala habitat has disappeared since European settlement in Australia.
- Of the remaining habitat, 80% is on privately owned land.
- More than 4000 koalas are killed each year by cars and dogs.

Last year, the Federal Government rejected the nomination to list the koala as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

In their response, the Government made it clear they view the koala as safe, abundant and not in need of recovery.



The AKF can only argue back with facts and statistics and Christine's work will provide this information.

The Blackall Range is blessed with a healthy koala population that utilises the tall eucalypt forests with rainforest gullies that edge the plateau. To assist landholders in restoring and linking this important habitat, Barung's new Green Corps team will be starting work on **koala habitat rehabilitation**

in the Curramore region. We are also waiting to hear if applications to the Burnett Mary Regional Group and the NHT Envirofund for koala habitat restoration funding in the Curramore region and in Elamon Creek sub-catchment are successful.

Caloundra City and Caboolture Shire councils have both recently obtained EPA funds to undertake koala mapping. This will give a better picture of our local koala populations and help identify habitat areas, so any landholder records obtained through Barung will also be passed on for these Council projects.

Please send any koala information to Mim Coulstock at Barung – either by email to mim@barunglandcare.org.au or in writing. Please include your property Lot and Plan numbers.

Visit www.savethekoala.com for more information.

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

SEQ Catchments Devolved Grants Project

The aim of this project is to assist landholders in the Stanley and Mooloolah River headwaters to undertake on-ground works on their properties to protect and improve the state of natural resources in their area. Of particular importance are areas that include endangered rainforest ecosystems, which may occur as remnants, corridors, regrowth or forest islands. In assessing works for consideration, priority has been given to works which will protect and enhance biodiversity values, improve water quality, and minimise land degradation.

To improve the effectiveness of the work the landholders carry out on their properties, each funding recipient has the opportunity to attend a Property Management Planning workshop (run by SEQ Catchments) designed to help them to identify, plan, manage and monitor natural resource conditions.

Ten of the 23 funding recipients have so far attended two workshops and have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to experience the property management planning process, particularly as an aid to prioritising and designing remediation work on their properties.

Community Water Grants Project

Barung's project with the Australian Governments Community Water Grants is also up and running, involving eight properties within the Lake Baroon catchment. This project is assisting these landholders to undertake works that will enhance water quality such as fencing off riparian areas to control stock access (1000 metres of fencing) and revegetating riparian zones (4000 trees). This work will help reduce nutrient and sediment loads generated in the catchment from entering Baroon Pocket Dam.

Devolved Grant applicants discussing issues at the recent PMP workshop held at Mary Cairncross Park Kiosk.



Wildlife Preservation
SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Queensland Glider Network

Membership application forms available from
glider@wildlife.org.au or 07 3221 0194 or
via www.wildlife.org.au (Glidens in the Spotlight)

National Landcare Project

Our on-ground component of this project, creek bank restoration of two eroding sites on Elamon Ck, is coming along well. The mighty CJP team (see below) recently spent a day at one site brush-cutting, weeding and mulching to bring it back up to scratch. The survival rate of trees planted jointly by Conservation Volunteers Abroad and Green Corp teams earlier this year on this site has been very good (around 96%) despite the dry conditions.

CJP at IGA Connection Site & Boardwalk

A special thank you to the Community Jobs Plan team and their coordinator (Steve Mallet) for all their hard work on these sites over the past 15 weeks of their employment. Just after this CJP team started at Barung, they threw themselves into helping prepare for the IGA Connection Treeplant by assisting Barung Contracting Services in readying the site for planting, setting up the Barung tent, spreading mulch, and then helping manage the crowd on the planting day. Since then they've been back to do more planting and several times to weed and mulch the area. In fact, they were back there again this (their final) week doing more maintenance – you could say they started and finished on the IGA Connection Site!

Likewise the appearance of the Boardwalk has benefited greatly from their diligent work on a number of occasions carrying on that never-ending crusade against weeds. Thanks very much for all your effort on these sites people.

Weeders needed

Speaking of weeds – they haven't stopped growing, but hopefully will slow down a little with the cooler weather – we are always interested in any of you out there with a little time to spare for some weeding in these areas, particularly along the Boardwalk. If you feel so inclined, please give Jane, our Volunteer Coordinator, a ring at Barung on 5494 3151 to register your interest.

Victoria to Atherton Wildlife Corridor

A 2800-kilometre wildlife corridor, one of the longest in the world, will be established along the ranges of eastern Australia. State and federal governments, led by NSW, have agreed that the plan is one of the nation's highest environmental priorities for this year. Participation will be voluntary, but \$7million worth of incentives will be made available to private landowners. The corridor is planned to stretch from the Victorian Alps through to Atherton in north Queensland.

THE PARABLE OF BUSH REGENERATION

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Brendan Stephen

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

The Upper Mary Valley is an amazing place to be on a crisp autumn or spring morning when the thickness of the cloud and fog limit visibility to 5 m at the most. The many valleys become deep oceans of moisture, while the spurs and upper ridges transform into isolated terrestrial islands. Certain subcatchments of the Upper Mary are adequately vegetated with remnant and regenerating forest communities, capturing and filtering the seepage and overland runoff at the start of its journey down the Numabulla. Other subcatchments have been excessively cleared and demonstrate low levels of riparian vegetative retention, impacting on water quality and availability.

Recently BCS have been involved in weed control along an unnamed tributary of Geraghty Creek. Although the surrounding landscape is excessively grazed, this remnant displays high levels of structural and species diversity, demonstrating continued resilience due to the constant available moisture and level of strata development, limiting the fluctuating temperatures and air movements within the interior. Due to the isolation and small size of the remnant, seed dispersal processes are currently threatened, limiting the availability of genetic variability and seriously affecting the long-term viability of the system to adapt to environmental changes.

The upper Obi Obi catchment is the BCS 'heartland' and has been the focus of most of the extension, community engagement and onground conservation and restoration works that Barung Landcare has undertaken over the last 18 years. BCS further enhance this work through the many regeneration and revegetation projects we manage across the private and public lands of the region. Through the strategic removal of environmental weed upper strata layers, the management of retained weed species, and the planting and maintenance of site-appropriate local stock, BCS has been involved in the protection and enhancement of the



*Regen Man: Note the far-seeing gaze (surveying the rolling hills of lantana) and tools of the trade.
[Photo by Brendan Stephen]*

ecology and hydrology of our 'heartland', the Maleny region of the Blackall Range.

Recently the BCS crew undertook onground weed control near an unnamed igneous plug in the Beerburum area. We were focusing on *Ipomea indica* and *Lantana camara* in a heavily disturbed sclerophyll community. The lower levels of soil moisture and fertility of the site limit the niche for the exotic weed species, but their impact is relatively similar and their capacity for system dysfunction is real. The rare endemic *Leptospermum luehmannii* is restricted to the trachyte and rhyolite based soils of the Glasshouse Mountains, with the largest populations found on Beerwah, Tibrogargan and Ngungun. To be in the presence of a shrub which has adapted over time to utilise a very limited range of environmental conditions encourages you to reevaluate yourself in the greater sphere of reality. Decisions we make every day have implications for those who will walk when we have left.

Other subcatchments that BCS have been working in include the Eudlo, Stanley, Skene, Walli, Mooloolah and Petrie Creek areas. The scale and scope of our client base and associated work sites is expanding, giving the Team the opportunity to learn new skills, enhance existing talents, receive insights about ourselves and each other, and generally progress and evolve as members of a dedicated and motivated Team. This concept itself generates the cohesiveness of the BCS Team in the delivery of onground outcomes for the client, the community, and the regional ecology.



Barung Contracting

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

coordinator 0429 943 156
barung landcare 07 5494 3151
www.barunglandcare.org.au
contracting@barunglandcare.org.au



DEADLINE - Wed 11th July

for August-September 2007

Barung Landcare... Newsletter contributions



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

THANK YOU

Please keep showing your ...

Barung
Community Benefit key tags

... when shopping at Maleny IGA

COMMONWEALTH COMMITS FURTHER FUNDING

REGIONAL NRM ROUNDUP by John Muir, Regional NRM Liaison Officer (based at Barung)

It was great news to hear at the recent Federal government budget announcements that a further \$2 billion dollars has been committed from 2008, for another five years towards environmental sustainability programs such as Landcare, Natural Heritage Trust and the like. These initiatives have been bipartisan in the past.

Landcare groups such as Barung are now two years through the delivery of the initial Regional Investment Strategies for both SEQ Catchments and BMRG, with one year to go in 2007-08. Further priority planning and community consultation will be carried out later this year to determine how the newly announced next round of funding will be allocated locally.

Some of the many existing NRM projects that local groups are implementing in this area include:

- Rainforest Recovery projects with SEQC and BMRG
- Camphor Laurel mapping, removal and revegetation
- Groundwater Investigation Groups monitoring bore water quantity and quality
- Devolved Grants for on-ground revegetation and remnant enhancement
- Dairy Industry Best Management Practice incentives – ‘Dairying Better ’n Better’
- Landslip information awareness and on-ground works
- Recovery planning development for local threatened species
- Landcare group support in Sustainable Production projects
- GIS ‘Hub’ Resource Centres and support networks with data share agreements
- Property Management Planning
- Local Government Conservation Partnerships and weed programs
- Bushcare and Catchment Care including weed management
- Indigenous engagement, training and partnership
- Numerous NRM conferences, workshops, field-trips and training exercises.

All local groups, stakeholders and landholders are encouraged to engage with the local NRM bodies of BMRG and SEQ Catchments to help determine priorities for projects needed locally and into the future. Partnership, integration and cross-regional/catchment projects are encouraged which focus their targeted outcomes in the areas of Biodiversity, Water Quality, Sustainable Production, Community Capacity and Coastal/Marine.

There are many groups and organisations involved in local Natural Resource Management issues, so check them out, get involved, and have your say.



DRY SEASON MAINTENANCE

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Hopefully there will be more than a few showers during this winter, but normally it is the dry time of the year. *Psychotria loniceroides* is a useful indicator of soil moisture and once it wilts I know that levels are low and there's not much point in carrying out further planting unless I have available tank water. The tanks are currently close to full. I do a regular rung count to monitor the rate of use.

With additional planting on hold, there's no excuse for not attending to maintenance. Actually it's very pleasant working outside at this time of the year and there's quite a lot of satisfaction in achieving a general tidy-up.

The removal of old shrubs can create some useful spaces. A layer of forest mulch with possibly some much smaller replacement plants provides both a change and a contrast. *Lomandra confertifolia* has proved quite successful in light shade and forms a neat clump of fine leaves.



Leaf litter complemented by Lomandra confertifolia. [Photo courtesy of John & Joan Dillon]

A relatively open area that has developed under mature melaleucas and callistemons attracts Emerald and Bar-shouldered Doves. Now the water dishes are also more visible from the verandah. A greater numbers of birds than usual are being attracted to the water dishes as other water sources dry up.

The production garden has also been getting some attention. We are so lucky in the sub-tropics to be able to grow vegetables all year round, and I am particularly fortunate to be in a frost-free zone. The remnants of the summer vegetables have been removed, mushroom compost and organic fertiliser dug in, and cool season seedlings planted. I'm sure they've doubled in size in a week!

It took far longer than expected, naturally, but the home orchard has been cleaned up, mulch applied, and the trees should survive for the dry season. Now it's the turn of the reveg!

It's a really good time to get on top of the weeds now that growth has slowed, even if only a little bit. There's no end to those jobs but the weather is cool, the ornamental garden is under control, and it's really nice to be out with the plants.

Support Barung Landcare through your Business

Forms available from Barung Landcare Office



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

19 Coral Street Maleny
PO Box 567 Maleny 4552
lbccg@ozemail.com.au
07 5494 3775

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY FOR MARTIN WILLIAMS

by Jane MacGibbon

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

As many of you will be aware, one of the region's finest environmental ambassadors, Martin Williams, passed away recently. Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG) subsequently organised a community tree planting day in honour of Martin, who was passionately dedicated to the revegetation of the weir but sadly fell ill before he got to see the project completed.

Martin had worked in the catchment since 1990 and was an original member of the LBCCG, which was formed in 1992 after the community became concerned about the blue green algal blooms that had occurred in the lake and about water quality in the catchment in general. Martin taught the community about water quality issues and worked with local dairy farmers to reduce the effects of dairy effluent on the waterways of the catchment.

The planting day, held on March 24, was a huge success with more than 50 people of all ages working hard to plant almost 650 trees – an awesome effort. Both Spencer Shaw of Brush Turkey Enterprises and his team and Steve Mallet and his CJP team helped out prior to and on the day and have worked steadily since then to keep the site maintained.



Martin Williams Community Treeplant.

The loss of Martin within the Lake Baroon Catchment will be felt by all those whose lives he touched, the community groups he belonged to, the children and young people he mentored, and the trees he never got to plant.

Martin is survived by his wife Carol, daughters Haylee, Tilly and Phoebe, and grandson Zac. Friends and relatives of Martin's donated funds to purchase the trees, and LBCCG and AquaGen added to this amount and also provided the commitment to ongoing maintenance.

LBCCG wishes to thank all those who helped on the day, particularly Brush Turkey Enterprises, Steve Mallet and his CJP team, Barung Landcare, the RSL for supplying a tent, and Montville Mist who provided water for the thirsty planters.

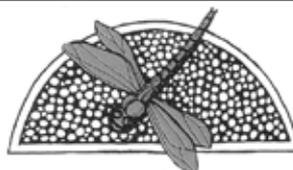
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Lin Fairlie

Apart from the role for which Barung was established – improving natural resource management in the Blackall Range area, Barung has provided, for the past ten years at least, a caring, supportive and learning environment in which many employees have thrived, honed their skills, and then moved on.

Barung has always encouraged staff to access further training and specialisation so that new job opportunities open up. We are always very sad to say goodbye but realise that new opportunities must be taken by staff who have given so much to Barung.

- **Marc Russell**, with his great knowledge of the flora of south-east Queensland, moved to Wilson's Pocket near Gympie where he has contributed to the operations of Gympie & District Landcare Group, and he is now Conservation Partnerships/'Land for Wildlife' Officer at Cooloola Shire Council.
- **Josie Marriott** has stayed on the Range and put her NRM career on hold to spend the early years with her two small children.
- **Bob Miller** has taken his butterfly passion and expertise to explore a whole new world in Cairns but fortunately continues to send us his fascinating articles.
- **Angie Todd** is putting her care and compassion into working in aged care in Sydney.
- **Juanita Anderson** has taken her formidable computer skills to a company on the Coast.
- **Nick Willis** left Barung to take up a Greening Australia position with Maroochy Shire Council, and is now working as a project manager with Noosa & District Landcare Group.
- **Ed Surman** joined Caboolture Shire Council as a Bushcare Officer to continue his work in the Upper Stanley catchment.
- **Cali Salzmann** made the big shift to Melbourne to join the team at the Native Botanical Gardens in Cranbourne, a branch of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.
- **Bev Hand** was approached by the Burnett Mary Regional Group and has taken on the role of Aboriginal and Indigenous Coordinator there.
- **Spencer Shaw** has established his own local bush regeneration business and nursery, in the form of Brush Turkey Enterprises.
- And **Jake Smith-Moloney**, former Nursery Trainee, is still with us as an integral part of the Barung Contracting team while he continues his studies.



Montville Mist

Still Spring Water

Joseph McGladrigan

Ph: 07 5442 9411

Mobile: 0408 522 585

Email: montvillemist@hotmail.com

Bottled at the Source

LESSER WANDERER

Danaus chrysippus petilia

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE by Bob Miller

Another butterfly found on the range that will utilise the plants (weeds) discussed in the previous newsletter is the Lesser Wanderer.

As the name suggests, it is not as large as the Wanderer, being only 60 mm (approx) from wingtip to wingtip.

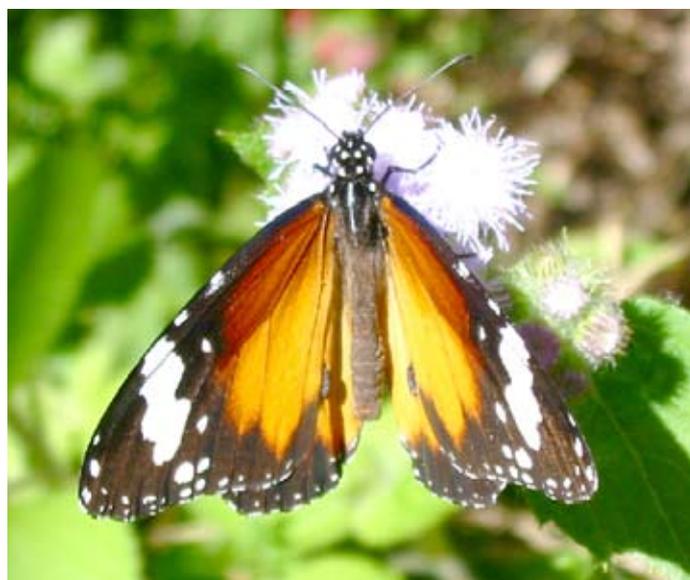
The uppersides of the adults are a lighter orange than that of the Wanderer and the veins are not as pronounced. The wings have a black border, with the forewings sporting a white patch and small white spots on the black tips.

As with the Wanderer, the male Lesser Wanderer also has a small, raised patch of sex scales on the upperside of the hindwings.

The undersides of the adults are similar to the uppersides, but the black borders are narrower and contain numerous white spots. The tips of the forewings are dull yellow, with the same white patch and black lower band as the upperside. The hindwings also have a few black spots in the central area.

The eggs, which are a cream-yellow colour and taller than they are wide, rising to a point, are laid singly on the leaves, stems or flowers of the foodplant.

The larvae, which grow to approximately 40 mm long before pupating, are quite attractive. They are white with a series of black bands running around their bodies. The larger black bands contain lemon-yellow spots, and then there are three narrower black lines before the next larger band and lemon-yellow spots. There are three sets of black, fleshy filaments, which are red toward their bases, one set near the head, one set near the rear end and one set on the fourth large black band with lemon-yellow spots. The set of filaments



*Lesser Wanderer (clockwise from bottom left):
Adult from top; Adult from side; Larvae from top.*
[Photos by Bob Miller]

on the head end are longer than the other two sets. The head of the larvae are white, with a black triangular mark.

The pupae are approximately 16 mm long, pale green-blue or pink, and the same shape as the Wanderer's pupae. They have the same markings as the Wanderer's pupae, with the black and brilliant gold banding and a few other brilliant gold spots on the back end. The easiest way to distinguish these pupae from each other is size: the Lesser Wanderer's pupae are much smaller than those of the Wanderer.

The foodplant that I have found Lesser Wanderers to prefer is the Red Milkweed *Asclepias curassavica*.

Further research on this or any other butterfly can be best done by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael Braby, 2000.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Science and Innovation Awards for Young People

Queenslanders (aged 18 to 35) can apply for the 2007 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Applications close: 5 pm, 15 June

More info: www.daff.gov.au/scienceawards

Community Water Grants Round 3

Proponents must register before submitting a full application.

Applications close: 11 am, 4 July

Info packs: www.communitywatergrants.gov.au

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

Our Place, Our Future Funding

Funds for planning initiatives and projects which will lead to sustainable rural and remote Queensland communities.

Applications close: 4 pm, 30 July and 22 October

More info: 1300 794 611 or
<http://tinyurl.com/2lqd9l>

MISTFLOWER: AN ENVIRONMENTAL WEED

WEED WATCH by John Wightman
Blackall Range Weed Task Force &
Barung Landcare Management Committee

July is not too far away and with it comes celebration of the passing of the winter solstice *aka* 'Christmas in July'. Hopefully and sadly the only white ground covering around here at that time will be Mistflower *Ageratina riparia*, yet another long-standing garden escape, and weed, that originated in South America.

The range of Mistflower in Australia extends along the coastal strip and hinterland from Fraser Island to close to the New South Wales/Victoria border. It grows in wetlands and in and around riparian strips and similar shady and moist places, such as tracks through bush remnants. There are extensive tracts of mistflower in Lamington National Park. This species spreads into pastures that are exposed to lax grazing pressure. It has little or no value as a pasture plant and stock avoid it, perhaps because it is toxic.

The plants are conspicuous once you are familiar with them because nothing else really looks like them. The leaves have conspicuous veins. The stems, which are dark red or purple, grow to about 600 mm and branch freely. Where a branch flops over and touches the ground it will form roots which support the further spread of the plant. The flowers are white 'fluffy balls', rather similar to those of *Ageratum* (Blue Billy-goat Weed or Blue Bonnet). Seeds are black and only 2 mm long with white tufts at one end.

Because of the combination of seed dispersal and vegetative reproduction, accidentally introducing a seed or two into a clean area can lead to a significant infestation in a surprisingly short time (here speaks the voice of experience). The net effect will be a significant reduction in the diversity of the flora. When introduced near a watercourse, the weed will spread up, down and into the stream.

This species is an *environmental weed*. It challenges the diversity of our ecosystems. If you see a good-sized colony you will notice a few seedlings of other species growing through the mist flower, but not as many as in mistflower-free areas. In the short term, this will not matter too much. But when the time comes for their parent trees to return the nutrients they have sequestered over the decades to the soil, there will be fewer new trees and fewer species to inherit the air and sun space. The native vegetation in that piece of forest or riverbank will have been depauperised, and with it the populations of birds, frogs and other fauna.

Conscientious guardians of our environment will feel the need to do something. If you see single plants around your property, pull them out before they flower (they are quite easy to pull) and permanently dispose of them (on *your* property). If there are more than your back or patience can deal with, you will need to apply a herbicide *carefully* – preferably a selective herbicide that will have less impact on nearby native plants than a broad-spectrum herbicide.



Mistflower in flower.
[Image courtesy of Department of
Primary Industries and Fisheries/
Biosecurity Queensland]

The Hawaiians and New Zealanders introduced a white smut disease into populations of mistflower that *grew* in their countries. This biocontrol agent has not infected any other species of plant and has spread rapidly from release sites, leaving sick and dying mistflower plants in its wake. Hopefully it will be possible to exploit this success by going through the biosecurity barriers discussed in the last *Barung News* and, if the barriers are successfully hurdled, releasing this biological control agent at prime locations along our east Coast.



Mistflower seedlings. [Photo by Eve Witney]

Noosa Landcare Farm Forestry Program

Silviculture Field Day: 'Pruning & Thinning'

When: Saturday 23rd June 9am-2pm (free)

This is a very practical day, with in-field demonstrations of high lift pruning, selecting/marketing and falling trees for thinning. We will also have a variety of equipment for you to try out.

Annual Farm Forestry Bus Trip

When: Saturday 21st July 8am – 5pm (\$25)

Spend a day tripping around Farm Forestry developments in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Meet fellow farm foresters and enjoy a gourmet lunch in the bush.

Enquiries to: Kaara Shaw on 5485 2313 or
ff@futurescentre.spiderweb.com.au

RED-FRUITED PALM LILY

Cordyline rubra

Family: *Laxmanniaceae / Draceanaceae*

PLANT PROFILE

by Wayne Webb & Diana O'Connor

Hanging panicles of bright scarlet-red berries draw attention to this hardy understory plant during its December to March fruiting period. These are preceded by showy clusters of mauve and white flowers during September and October. *Cordyline rubra* is usually seen at one to two metres high, although it may grow to four metres. It is an upright plant with foliage tufted toward the top. Plants are sometimes branched. Leaves are strap-like, to 50 cm long and 3 to 4.5 cm wide.

Red-fruited Palm Lily is a rather misleading common name because the other species of cordyline which grows locally (*C. petiolaris*) also has red fruit, although that one is generally a more orange-red. *C. petiolaris* has broader leaves with distinct narrow petioles, which are deeply grooved above. In *C. rubra* the leaf base narrows gradually to a flat or slightly concave petiole. Another cordyline often planted locally is *C. stricta*, in which the leaf base tapers gradually without a distinct petiole. *C. stricta* has black berries, and has a natural distribution from Sydney to the McPherson Range. The name *C. rubra* should not be confused with *C. terminalis* 'Rubra', which is a name given to red-leaved cultivars of *C. terminalis*.

C. rubra may be found from the Clarence River in northern NSW to the Bundaberg district. It occurs in subtropical, wet-temperate and littoral rainforests, and neighbouring wet sclerophyll forests. It is very common locally, and can be found growing in most patches of remnant vegetation, regardless of soil type.

C. rubra is an ideal garden plant. It is small enough to fit into any garden, even a small courtyard, or as a tub plant for a shaded deck. Palm lilies lend themselves to group planting, clumps of three looking better than a single plant. Try planting three of different heights in a large tub. They can also be planted in large numbers as an understory to give a tropical feel to your garden. While *C. rubra* looks much better when grown under light to medium shade,

it can tolerate exposure to full sun. It is quite hardy under dry conditions once established, but will respond better to moist, well-mulched soils.

Red-fruited Palm Lilies are not normally included in new revegetation plantings, but should be planted once some tree cover is present to build up the understory layer.

Cordyline rubra can be easily propagated by seed. Extract the small black seeds from the red berries and sow lightly over a seed raising mix. Just cover the seeds with a sprinkling of mix. Water lightly and keep moist, but not wet, in a lightly shaded position. Seeds should germinate in around two months. If plants are becoming too tall, the top can be cut off and struck as a cutting. The base should re-shoot to form a multi-stemmed plant.



Red-fruited Palm Lily.

[Photo by Diana O'Connor]



The new Barung tank has arrived!

WELCOME TO DAWN

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dawn Worthington into the Barung Family. Dawn will fill the vacancy left in the nursery since Cali has moved to Melbourne and now Bev has taken up her new position with BMRG.

Dawn was a member of the recent Community Jobs Plan team at Barung. During this time, she impressed greatly with her commitment, interest and organisational abilities. Please drop into the nursery and meet her in person.

We have also had Michael Cooper from the Barung Contracting team helping out around the nursery lately. Michael is doing a fantastic job of controlling weeds around the nursery – especially with the Morning Glory spreading along the creek line.

Michael has also been working with our trusty volunteers to prepare pads for two 5500 gallon rainwater tanks which are now collecting all the runoff from our roof area. This water will be used for watering in seedlings, and for hand watering the propagation shed. Meanwhile, work continues on upgrading our irrigation system to further reduce our water usage.

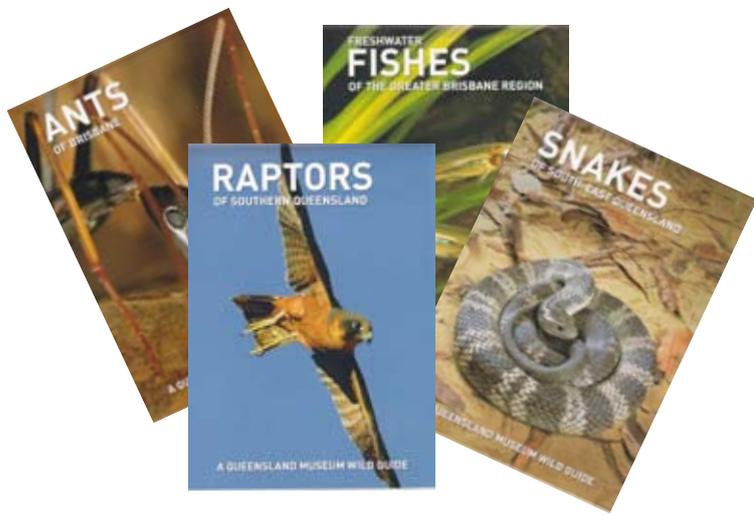
HELLO FROM DAWN

Hi there, my name is Dawn Worthington and I'm the new face in the Nursery (not Wayne's).

I am quite new to the area, arriving last year from the warmth of Darwin. Previously I've grown tropical cut flowers and foliage (heleconia & ginger) commercially, owned a small business, completed Tropical Horticultural qualifications, managed a wholesale plant nursery, and worked in lots of customer service related industries. I am the very proud mum of two kidlets, 11 and 12 years old, have been happily married for very close to 18 years.

I came to be at Barung Landcare through my involvement with the Community Jobs Plan (CJP) Team. The program was a very positive experience for me, introducing me to all the Range has to offer, a great group of people and, of course, employment.

So be patient with me as I continue to learn about the biodiversity of the Blackall Range, and a huge thanks, especially to all those at Barung who have welcomed me so warmly.



Pocket-sized ID guides

BOOK REVIEWS by Lin Fairlie

The Queensland Museum has released a very useful pocket-sized set of four books with excellent colour photographs:

Raptors of Southern Queensland

Ants of Brisbane

Snakes of South-East Queensland

Freshwater Fishes of the Greater Brisbane Region.

Raptors of Southern Queensland provides, for each of the 24 birds, photos and text about appearance in flight and flight patterns well as perching profiles. The photographs are beautiful. Useful Tips help to make it easier to identify the members of this large group of birds. Previously I've made no attempt to identify raptors, but now at least I can try. For starters, now I know that kites, eagles and hawks belong to one family and falcons and kestrels to another.

Snakes of South-East Queensland commences with a section on Queensland's most dangerous snakes and appropriate emergency procedures. About 40 different species are covered with photos and information. The last section is Frequently Asked Questions, such as 'What is Australia's most venomous land snake?' For the definitive answer – purchase a copy from Barung!

Ants of Brisbane offers fascinating information about ant biology and the role ants play in the environment. Over 40 different photos and descriptions include the recent invaders, Fire Ants. The structure of ants as shown in diagrams and some photos is very interesting, especially if you use a magnifying glass.

The first fish species featured in *Freshwater Fishes of the Greater Brisbane Region* is the threatened Queensland Lungfish. Twenty-eight native and six exotic species follow, each with great photos and detailed text. A separate key to the common species of the Brisbane area is included. The point is made that abundance and diversity of natural fish populations are good indicators of stream condition and that public awareness of freshwater fish needs to be increased. Remember to never release exotic fish from your fish tank into the wild. Advice on ethical disposal is included.

Overall this set of four provides useful information for people who spend time out in the bush and in their gardens. While we are unlikely to encounter all these species, these booklets provide us with a greater appreciation of the complexities of these four major groups that occur around us.

Each book can be purchased from Barung for \$9.95.

If you can't make it in to the Barung Bookshop, you can order these books by phone, by providing your credit card details (with postage added).

CarbonSMART

Carbon trading for Landcarers

Landcare Australia is offering a carbon pool management and brokering service, distributing lump sum payments to landholders in return for growing and maintaining vegetation on their land.

The service, called **Landcare CarbonSMART**, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Landcare Australia Limited. Landcare Australia is a not for profit organisation.

Through Landcare CarbonSMART, farmers and landholders can earn money simply by planting and maintaining vegetation for biodiversity. The CarbonSMART project makes it possible for landholders to secure a regular income for up to 30 years. In turn, individuals and businesses can buy carbon credits from Aussie landholders, and do their part to help secure a sustainable global climate for the future.

CarbonSMART is aimed at conservation activities such as erosion control, salinity reduction and streamside rehabilitation. The areas of most interest are sites that landholders consider permanent plantings.

CarbonSMART is currently available only to landholders in Victoria (and New South Wales has a mandatory government-run scheme).

However, Queenslanders whose projects meet the eligibility criteria are encouraged to complete and return an Expression of Interest form so that you can be contacted as soon as the CarbonSMART opportunity becomes available in Queensland. These criteria include:

- The site must have been predominantly clear of vegetation (ie. less than 20% tree cover) on 31 December 1989; revegetated after 1 January 1990; revegetated by seeding or other human action; and planted with local native species.
- The vegetation must likely attain a mature height of at least two metres with a crown (shade) covering of more than 20%.
- The site must be at least 0.2 hectare.
- The carbon will remain on site for at least 100 years after the final trade of that carbon.

More info: Landcare Australia on (02) 9412 1040

Email: carbonsmart@landcareaustralia.com.au

Website: www.carbonsmart.com.au

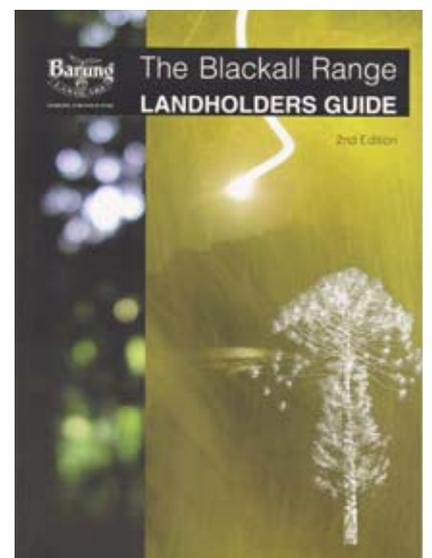
The Blackall Range Landholders Guide

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

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

Also available at

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



BARUNG at the WOODFORD TREEPLANTING FESTIVAL

by Fuschia Collard

I just love combining work with fun and that's what we did at the annual Woodford Treeplanting Festival on the May long weekend.

This is the first year we've been able to attend due to the Maleny Wood Expo being postponed. The Barung stall was a success, as was the festival. A fantastic 7500 trees went in the ground on the Woodford Folk Festival site. Well done everyone!

Barung was also able to supply baby Bunya Trees to the Festival for adoption. Participants were asked to take and care for two trees each until the year 2010 when they will be recalled to the site for planting. Thank you to all the wonderful adopters.

All in all we had a great weekend. We met many enthusiastic land and wildlife carers, we talked to lots of people, sold lots of plants and books, spread the word on Landcare to anyone who would listen, and of course we were well entertained by a fabulous array of musicians and speakers.

A big 'thank you' to Jane Williamson and Dawn Worthington for helping on the stall and to Pat Fuller for helping transport what we needed for the stall! And a huge thanks to Woodford Folk Federation for inviting us.



Fuschia and Dawn W. 'person' the Barung display.
[Photo by Jane Williamson]

BARUNG OPPORTUNITIES

Introductory Grazing Management Workshop

Are you interested?

If sufficient Expressions of Interest are received, an Introductory Grazing Management Workshop will be organised for late June or early July. Further workshops on specific topics of interest to participants at the first workshop will follow.

The workshop will be a joint initiative of Barung Landcare, Bellthorpe Progress Association and SEQ Catchments.

Please contact Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 to add your name to the list.

Botanical Information Field Workshop

When: Saturday 16 June 2007

Times: 8.30 am to 4.00 pm, carpooling from Barung

Identifying trees and where they sit in the landscape under the regional ecosystem process, especially from a landzone and geology aspect. Includes informative booklet.

To book: Phone Barung on 5494 3151 by Wed 13 June

Bring: boots, water, hat, sunscreen, morning tea, lunch (or buy at Mary Cairncross)

More info: Ashley Sewell on 5451 2267 or ashley.sewell@nrw.qld.gov.au

Wildlife Walks:

Spotlighting Special in June

Susie Duncan will lead a spotlighting wildlife walk on Wednesday 13 June and a day walk on Wednesday 11 July.

For the **spotlighting walk in June** we travel to Bellthorpe forest in the afternoon, walk for about 40 minutes in the daylight, have our BYO dinner, and then spotlight on the way back to the cars. Meet at Barung at 3 pm and expect to return to Barung by 8 pm.

For the **July walk**, meet at Barung at 8.45 am and expect to return by 3 pm.

We will car-pool for both walks. Bring water, dinner/lunch, strong boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, torch (for night walk), binoculars if you have them. The walks are free but please book at Barung on 5494 3151.

BOOKSHOP SPECIALS by Lin Fairlie

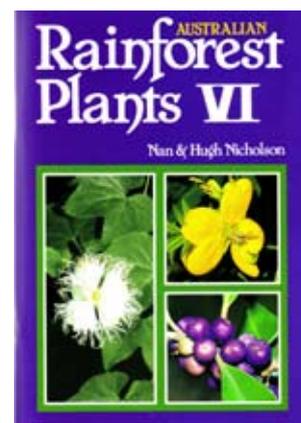
Rainforest Plants VI by Nan and Hugh Nicholson is now available. It covers a further 120 rainforest species but looks at some from drier rainforests and vine scrubs.

A number of threatened species are included in this volume, which appears to be the last in the series.

A section titled 'The right rainforest' concludes this book, an important and useful section reminding us about issues related to planting rainforest species, especially the potential of some to become 'weeds' when out of their own environment.

Each of the six books in this series is priced at \$19.95.

SPECIAL PRICE: \$100 for the whole set of six books if purchased from the Barung Bookshop (effectively 6 books for the price of 5).



OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Climate Change Workshops

Do you need to know more about 'Climate Change' and how it will impact your land and your bottom line?

These AgForce workshops are a great opportunity for land owners in addressing the impacts of climate change at the on-farm level:

- Develop a greater understanding of both natural and human-induced changes in the climate
- Enhance skills to assess expected impacts on local temperatures, rainfall, pastures, crops and water
- Expand your skills to assess on-farm options and develop plans that benefit your profitability.

Workshops are funded through the National Landcare Programme and are conducted by Dr Jeff Clewett, Director and Principal Scientist of Agroclim Australia.

Where & When: 12.45 pm – 7 pm including BBQ dinner

Mon 4 June Gympie

Tues 5 June Yarraman

Mon 18 June Kilcoy

Tues 19 June Toogoolawah

Thurs 21 June Boonah

Cost: \$25 per person. Numbers limited.

Enquires to: Kate Scott on 07 4699 5520

Queensland Rainforest Forum

When/Where: 25–27 June 2007, Griffith Uni, Brisbane

More info: Landcare Queensland on 3211 4413

Website: www.landcare.org.au/RRforum07.htm

2020 Climate Change Conf/Expo

When/Where: 8 June – Conference

9 June – Free Community Expo
Twin Waters Resort

Website: www.scec.org.au

Healthy Soils Symposium

When/Where: 3–5 July, Twin Waters Resort

More info: 1800 177 636 or
esther@estherprice.com.au

Queensland Landcare Conference

When/Where: 22–25 August, Mackay

Website: www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm

Queensland Coastal Conference

When/Where: 17–20 September, Bundaberg

More info: 02 9368 1200 or
qldcoast07@iceaustralia.com

Stormwater Management Conference

When/Where: 19–21 September, Twin Waters Resort

More info: nejones@bigpond.com or 0411 425 169

Website: www.stormwater.asn.au/qld

THANK YOU TO ...

... **Glen Smith** from *Hinterland Surveys* for providing a property survey plan for the Obi Boardwalk area

... **Paul Hood** for using Glen's plan to find several survey points marking a property boundary so we can proceed with work enabling the expansion of the Boardwalk planting

... **Rainforest Rescue** for a further donation of \$5000 towards the Rainforest Recovery project

... **Joan Dillon** for supplying articles to the Hinterland Times on behalf of Barung

... **Jim and Libby Gemmell** for donating a 15 m x 35 m shadehouse to Barung

... The **CJP team** for dismantling and transporting the shadehouse to Barung

... **Jane Williamson** for organising and catering an outing to Witjuti Grub Bushfood Nursery for our wonderful Volunteers in recognition of their invaluable help at Barung

... **Lynn** from *Mystic Mountain Tours* for driving the bus on our Volunteer Week excursion

... **Steve Mallet** for your very informative and amusing commentary on the bus

... **Graeme White** from *Witjuti Grub Bushfood Nursery*, Kenilworth, for spending the whole morning with our group, showing us around his nursery and explaining all the trees and shrubs

... **Pat Fuller** and **Lin Fairlie** for supporting staff with the many Barung extra stalls and activities in the next few weeks

... **John Wightman**, **Annette Lawniczak**, **David Binstead** and **Dawn Worthington** for starting the all-new much-needed Grant Writing Support Group

... **Noel Denning**, **Marion Adamson**, **Ross Shannon**, **Max Smith** and **Val Phillips** for another well-organised *Barung News* (April-May 07) mailout, as well as a new lady, **Linda Audley-Coote**, who came on board after completing the newsletter feedback form a while back

... **Max Smith**, **Marion Adamson**, **Harley Smith**, **Faye Smith**, **Rachel Stacey**, **Kevin Smith**, **Col Phillips** and **Val Phillips** for helping with the May 07 *Codline* mailout.





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“LAZY” ...

... continued from page 16

that would protect young saplings while they are becoming established.

So as a lazy revegetator, how first would I tackle the revegetation of some of the pasture areas? Well, if I was really as lazy as I aspire to be, I would simply exclude cattle from a paddock and then wait for the grass to grow so thick and rank that it started to break down on itself and allow blackberry or raspberry to establish, a few wattles to pop up etc ... privet would move in and then, by a few hundred years later, a full-blown rainforest would have re-established. But even my impatience gets the better of me here and I would like to see some results in my lifetime ...

As we were lucky to start with a very clean pasture of carpet grass, kikuyu and couch, I simply removed cattle from the paddock to be planted and then spot-sprayed planting circles of 0.75 metre diameter at 2 to 3 metre spacings. Then I walked away for at least 6 to 8 weeks. In that time the grass that was sprayed dies off nicely and makes for easy digging. The grass that wasn't sprayed is then cut prior to a planting and used as mulch, saving a lot of labour costs (and allowing the wallet to stay closed) as mulch is produced on site, right where it is needed. Then it's a simple matter of planting a variety of local natives, from shrubs to trees, and keeping the grass well away long enough for them to grow and in turn shade out the remaining grass, all being well, in two to four years. This is how we will tackle some of the pasture areas and set up a forest framework – but a few planted trees does not a forest make!

When we stop the processes that are interfering with native ecosystem restoration – in this case the sward of exotic grasses that suppress the germination and spread of native seedlings – that's when the fun really begins.

Finally I get to sit back on the verandah with the book, cup of tea etc ... Forest birds such as pigeons and doves, bowerbirds, catbirds and of course brush turkeys, will start to move in and spread the seed of other local natives. Bandicoots and echidnas will roam about digging holes, spreading spore of important mycorrhizal fungi and creating the disturbance that allows the germination of some seeds hidden in the soil. Possum and wallabies will carry on their legs the sticky seed of the native creeping beard grass and spread this groundcover. A host of invertebrates and a swag of fungi will find homes in the new litter layer that establishes under our growing trees and shrubs and in turn build the soil and cycle nutrients.

So next time you are out there saving the planet and it all seems like too much hard work, think lazy. Find yourself a hammock and think about how you can assist the wildlife to help themselves, by interrupting whatever processes are inhibiting the ability of local ecosystems to regenerate themselves.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

James & Suzanne Davidson

Maleny Motor Trimmers

Lilyponds Holiday Park

Mulchmakers

Stephane Cazard of Earthcarer

“LAZY”

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

By Spencer Shaw of Brush Turkey Enterprises

Being a naturally lazy person I don't like complicated solutions to what should theoretically be the relatively simple process of restoring our native ecosystems. My idea of perfect regeneration is sitting back on the verandah sipping a cup of tea, reading a book, and occasionally lifting my gaze from the page to watch native fauna undertake all the work that is necessary to restore the native vegetation on our new block.

That's the dream ...

However it's worth remembering, when we undertake ecosystem restoration, that we *don't*, *shouldn't* and simply *can't* act alone – quite humbling for your average egocentric *Homo sapien*.

In late January this year the Brush Turkey clan moved to beautiful Reesville, just five minutes west of Maleny, to start work on (and enjoy!) 14 acres of land and one acre of water. More than 12 of the 14 acres of land are pasture, a substantial proportion of which we plan to either restore to native vegetation or plant up

in some form or another. So unless we are happy to say farewell to the relaxed weekend forever and only catch up with the kids some time around their 21st birthdays ... it's time to get lazy and work with nature.

Ok, so let's break the processes down and work out what is stopping native ecosystems looking after themselves, and then let's eliminate those hurdles.

If you have native vegetation on your property, that's a great start. We have several patches of remnant and planted vegetation, so from there we at least have a seed source and, often more importantly, habitat for native fauna to move through the landscape spreading seed from our remnants and nearby native vegetation. So given that we have these few remnants on our property, what processes are stopping native vegetation spreading all by itself?

On our property, competition from an exotic grassland/pasture ecosystem is the primary factor limiting the regeneration of native ecosystems. Intensive cattle grazing maintains these pastures as any native seedlings that do pop up are removed. Herbicide use over the last 50 years or so has helped suppress the growth of native weeds such as raspberry and even the exotic blackberry

... continued on page 15

The Barung Family

BARUNG VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	<i>Heather Spring</i>
Vice President	<i>Pat Fuller</i>
Secretary	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
Treasurer	<i>David Binstead</i>
Committee Members	<i>Marion Adamson</i> <i>Eric Anderson</i> <i>Kate Fraser</i> <i>Bob Hall</i> <i>Peter Stevens</i> <i>Clayton Stokoe</i> <i>John Wightman</i>

BARUNG STAFF

Nursery Manager	<i>Wayne Webb</i>
Nursery Assistant	<i>Dawn Worthington</i>
Acting Barung Contracting Coordinator	<i>Brendan Stephen</i>
Manager	<i>Darryl Ebenezer</i>
Administration Officer	<i>Fuschia Collard</i>
Volunteer Coordinator	<i>Jane Williamson</i>
Threatened Species Project Officer	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>
Regional NRM Liaison Officer for Burnett Mary Regional Group	<i>John Muir</i>
Sustainable Landuse Officer & more	<i>Jonathan Waites</i>
Editor, <i>Barung News</i> and <i>The CODLine</i>	<i>Eve Witney</i>

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

If undeliverable please return to:

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