BARUNG

LANDCARE NEWS

September - November 2013

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MALENY

Barung Nurseries
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WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

www.barunglandcare.org.au

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS CHASES CROFTON WEED AT BELLTHORPE

by Susie Duncan, HBL Coordinator

Roving Restorers had a magnificent day at Bellthorpe National Park recently. An enthusiastic group made short work of the Crofton Weed in the headwaters of Broken Bridge Creek and then enjoyed a meander through the stunning rainforest that surrounds this picturesque creek.

From where we sat above a waterfall eating our lunch, we were captivated by the spectacle of a Brown Goshawk somersaulting through the air with a Wompoo Fruit-dove in its talons. The audible gasp from our group was enough to distract the Goshawk which dropped the Wompoo in the splash pool below. A rapid rescue ensued for the Wompoo which gradually recovered and flew into a tree before we departed. Meanwhile the Goshawk flew away hungry!

Another highlight of the day was finding the rare Red Lillypilly *Syncarpia hodgkinsonia* laden with fruit at a couple of sites near the creek.

Crofton Weed is a taller relative of Mist Weed and continues to spread in our region. It will be coming into flower in September so try to get on top of it now if you have it on your land. By the time this article comes out, Roving Restorers will have dealt with another infestation in the beautiful Branch Creek catchment of Bellthorpe National Park.

Wompoo after encounter with Goshawk. *[Mark Amos]*

Hinterland Bush Links learnt a lot about what's caused the degradation of the Mary River and some of its tributaries at two Rivercare days run by Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee recently.

You may not know that 100,000 tonnes of river sand and gravel were removed from the Upper Mary each year in the 1970s and 1980s, resulting in the major lowering of the river bed and consequent bank collapse. The river bed erosion that follows creates small waterfalls that prevent fish passage, and the froth below the waterfall adds to the problem because fish can't swim through the bubbles.

In the same vein as dealing with environmental weeds, the general wisdom is to start river restoration in the most stable catchments first.

Roving Restorers will be visiting some interesting properties in the next few months so come along and find out how others are approaching habitat restoration.

Roving Restorers hard at work near Branch Ck. *[Susie Duncan]*

WELCOME NEW COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Eric Anderson

A no-fuss AGM was held at the Landsborough Nursery on Saturday 12th November. Thirty-four people turned up on the day to see the nursery and enjoy a sausage sizzle. Twenty-seven members and three visitors attended the AGM and there were 26 Apologies. The new Committee is:

- President – ***Eric Anderson***
- Vice-President – ***Lindsay Kruger***
- Treasurer – ***Alan Harrington***
- Secretary – ***Lin Fairlie***
- Committee Members – ***Diana O'Connor***, ***Martina Gordon***, ***Dianne Clarke***, ***Ric Bastian***

Nursery surges ahead

The shade house is filling up rapidly thanks to the mighty efforts of master tubers Alan Felmingham and Peter Atherdon. There is no shortage of plants for these tubers as Diana O'Connor has taken on the majority of our seed collection and sowing and has the propagation tunnel full of healthy seedlings waiting to be tubed.

All of the new plants are going to be needed as the Nursery has just been awarded the right to supply plants to Tree Crop Technologies Pty Ltd for Unity Water's irrigated forest plantings on the Maleny Community Precinct site. This involves supplying close to fifty thousand plants over the next three years. Tree Crop Technologies are required to have the first planting of about twenty thousand plants in the ground by the end of February 2014.

The new order from Tree Crop Technologies is a great boost to the Nursery's confidence and of course the bottom line. To further enhance the retail operation and marketing in general a new Nursery Sub-committee has been formed under Assistant Nursery Manager Fuschia Collard and includes Joan Dillon, Ian Webster, Dianne Lanskey and Diana O'Connor. See some early evidence of their efforts in the revamping of the retail nursery at Porter's Lane.

Successful Grant Applications

Barung has just been advised by the Minister for Environment and Heritage that our application in Round 2 for funding under the Everyone's Environment grants – Cleaning Up Our Backyard program has been successful. Our project Gardens for Wildlife has received funding of $18,045. More details in the coming months as the project committee of Rod Kerr, Fuschia Collard, Joan Dillon and Jonathan Waites start putting the project together.

New residents at the Landsborough Nursery.

We also received a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, administered by the state Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. This will allow us to set up more tanks at our Landsborough nursery to augment our limited water storage capacity as well as catch rainwater from more building roofs. The more rainwater we catch (when it rains) the less we have to run the diesel pump at the dam to water our plants.

Many thanks to Jonathan Waites for getting these applications up.

Barung members leading workshops

Congratulations to Wayne Webb for being asked to present a workshop on the propagation of native plants from seed to the recently held 2013 National Conference of the Australia Native Plants Societies held at Alexandra Headlands. He also presented the same workshop as one of our Landcare Week Activities in early September. Other activities involving Barung during Landcare Week included a field trip to inspect rainforest revegetation done by Ian Webster and Dianne Lanskey; a bird and plant ID walk at Flaxton guided by Diana O'Connor; and a Landslips workshop and field inspection coordinated for us by Jonathan Waites – many thanks to all of those involved in organising these activities.

Congratulations to Noosa Landcare with their coming of age. It was with pleasure that I representedBarung at their 21st birthday celebrations at Pomona on 3rd October.

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BUSHCARE'S BIG DAY OUT ON THE MARY RIVER

A Landcare Week event

by Susie Duncan, HBL Coordinator

Hinterland Bush Links organised a Bushcare day at Crystal Waters to coincide with Landcare Week and the national event: 'Bushcare's Major Day Out'.

One hundred trees were planted along the Mary River and various weeds eliminated, creating a pleasant space for people to enjoy the river as well as connecting habitat. Thirty people from the Upper Mary and Blackall Range came along to lend a hand.

After the planting and a pleasant morning tea, we took a walk along the river with John King who talked about seed dispersal of stream-side vegetation. Di Collier filled us in with the latest efforts of locals in the Upper Mary who are concerned about the ongoing sedimentation of the river from a landslip high in the catchment.

It was a great day out for the community and the bush.

Hinterland Bush Links
EVENTS

First Friday of each month

Little Yabba Park Bushcare, Cambroon, 8am-11am

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 are very welcome***. Contact Susie Duncan on 5429 6622.***

Monday 25 November

Roving Restorers, Curramore, 8.30am-12pm

Join us for a morning of weeding Morning Glory in forest on Mim Coulstock's property. Mim's land provides an important buffer to Maleny National Park and she has been actively restoring forest for koalas and other wildlife for some years. Morning tea provided.

Car pool at the back of the IGA carpark in Maleny at 8.00am or travel independently (call 5429 6622 for directions) for an 8.30am start. All tools will be provided. Bring gloves, water, lunch, boots, long-sleeved shirt and trousers, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

For all events: Please register at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or **www.barunglandcare.org.au**

Enquiries: Please contact Susie Duncan on 5429 6622 or **wilderness@hotkey.net.au**

www.hinterlandbushlinks.org

CATS CLAW
BIOCONTROL AGENT AVAILABLE

Gympie Landcare has tingid infected Cats Claw Creeper ready for distribution as cut leaves and tendrils rather than plants.

Please phone Gympie Landcare on 5483 8866 on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday to place an order and make arrangements for collection.

THE GENESIS BLOCK

by Jonathan Waites

Three years ago Barung was approached by the directors of the Genesis Foundation and asked if we would be willing to assume ownership of their property on Upper Cedar Creek Rd (jointly with Northey Street City Farm) to prepare it for sale and distribute the proceeds between ourselves and several other not-for-profit community groups.

The 34 ha property was purchased by the late Stewart Sherwin and he established Genesis Foundation in 1991. The Foundation was a landholding philanthropic trust fund established for the purpose of "…fostering the education of the public in the principles of the sciences of permaculture, ecology and sustainable culture".

In time the decision was made to wind up the trust; under the conditions pertaining to this type of trust the assets upon winding up must be disbursed to like-minded organisations.

The transfer of property ownership to Barung and Northey St is imminent and we wish to 'tidy' it up in preparation for listing for sale.

The property was recently slashed; however we need to clean up inside and around the small cottage.

To this end we are going to have a working bee, together with volunteers from Northey St, on Saturday 14th December from early morning, finishing before lunchtime when we will knock off and call it a day. We just need some VOLUNTEERS.

Details below! Further details will be advertised closer to the time. Hope to see you there!

WORKING BEE

Saturday 14th December

"Genesis" property, via Elaman Creek

Early morning to lunchtime - with lunch provided!

Any amount of time you can give to help us to clean up in and around the cottage would be very much appreciated.

A well-presented property means a timely sale at a good price (we hope!) and anything you can do to help us achieve this will strengthen Barung's financial position.

Please book in at ***5494 3151*** or www.barunglandcare.org. Thank you!

RED-STAINING STALKED POLYPORE

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

During this time of the year when fungi are scarce, one of the Mary Cairncross guides found a new fungus for the Reserve.

It is a polypore which is fairly common in rainforest and Eucalypt forests and woodlands. It's called *Amauroderma rude* or red-staining stalked polypore. It grows on wood, often buried rotting wood so it appears to be emerging from the soil. When you touch or bruise the whitish spore-bearing area it quickly stains red and then becomes black sometime later.

The cap can be up to 15 cm in diameter and is flat or may have a central depression. The cap has concentric zones of various shades of brown and may be velvety. Pores are small. It usually has a central stem, also brown, and the texture of the whole fungus is woody. Twigs or grass are often found embedded in the cap.

In June 2013 a group of Chinese scientists, partly funded by Canada, published a paper on its anti-cancer properties. The Chinese have a traditional interest in medicinal mushrooms and *Ganoderma lucidum* has been used for a long time. This fungus belongs to the same family and they claim it is more potent than *G. lucidum* in killing breast cancer cells.

Amauroderma rude. [Photos: Fran Guard]

Support Barung Landcare through your Business

More information and forms available at the Barung Landcare Resource Centre

ACTIVITY @ PORTERS LANE

NURSERY NOTES by Fuschia Collard

Porters Lane is all a-buzz. There are excavators, new pipes are being laid, people with hard hats, chainsaws and orange vests, others with clipboards and surveyors' pegs, and oh yeah, there's a parade of white 4WD utes…

Work has started on the next stage of the Unity Water 'Maleny Sewerage Treatment Plant and Wetlands Project'. Thousands of Barung's babies will soon start their new life and grow into a magnificent forest, slowly changing our lunch time view from landslips and farmland to wetlands and rainforest. Yum!

We are looking forward to working with Tree Crop Technologies to ensure a great outcome for all.

Meanwhile we are still working towards redesigning the sales area and moving the nursery office up to the same level. We are all eager to make this happen but with a limited number of volunteers we figure slow and steady will win the race.

We are also hoping to eventually open the nursery on Saturday mornings. To do this we require regular volunteers to commit to one Saturday morning a month. Please email me at **nursery@barunglandcare.org.au** if you are interested. Knowledge of our local species is preferred.

Landslip Maps

I want to say a huge thank you to Jill Morris and Richard Dent for filling in for me on Friday 6th September so I could attend the Landslip Workshop. Questions about landslips are in the top three most-asked questions at the nursery this year.

Are you aware that Sunshine Coast Council has ***landslip maps*** on their website?

This is how you find your way to these maps through the Sunshine Coast Council website:

- Under Building and Planning...
- go to Draft New Planning Scheme...
- then to View the Draft Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme Maps...
- from there you have a choice of looking at Local Plan Map Tiles (urban centres and villages) or Rural Map Tiles (the larger areas in between).

OUR LANDCARE WEEK EVENT

As part of Landcare Week this year we wanted to honour some of our local Landcare Superheroes, the nursery volunteers. Without these mild-mannered citizens of the Sunshine Coast, it would be almost impossible to keep the Barung Nursery going. So on Tuesday 3rd September we all set out to enjoy the Volunteers Big Day Out.

Many thanks to Ian Webster and Dianne Lanskey (Superheros themselves) for inviting us all to their property so we could see firsthand where some of our plants are going.

Ian and Dianne have added thousands of trees and understorey species to their magnificent property at Flaxton. Much of the terrain is not easy to work on but Spiderman and Supergirl, as they are now known, have crawled up steep embankments, hacked through mountains of lantana, and used their super powers to hold back landslips, all to create a better world. They have done an amazing job.

Thanks also must go to Wayne for cooking up a couple of Super curries for lunch. After lunch each of our regular nursery Superheroes received a Medal of Honour and Certificate of Appreciation thanking them for bringing their unique super powers to Barung. Hope you enjoy the photos.

Anticlockwise from top:

Wonderwoman (alias Marisse Anderson), Fantastic Fungi Girl (alias Gretchen Evans), The Dancing Queen (Pam Owens), and Mr Incredible (alias Alan Felmingham).

TREES and SEEDS

SEED ALERT by Diana O'Connor

Through the recent winter I have observed the fruiting of Pigeonberry Ash *Cryptocarya erythroxylon*. It began dropping fruit in late June and an occasional tree was still dropping fruit last week. I observed 12 trees drop fruit along just the paths of Mary Cairncross Reserve. It is said to be the replacement for Camphor Laurels *Cinnamomum camphora*. As it supplies food for large rainforest birds all through the winter, this seems to be more than true. I often saw Wompoo Fruit-Doves eating fruit overhead. Perhaps this is a staple equivalent to potatoes!

Fruits 'on' at present are Pink and Red Ash – *Alphitonia petriei* and *A. excelsa.* Their seed is always welcome at the Barung Nursery. It can be soaked for a day or just kept dry.

Scentless Rosewood *Synoum glandulosum,* Black Apple *Pouteria australis,* Hairy Rosewood *Dysoxylum rufum,* and Red Bean *Dysoxylum mollissimum* are all ready or nearly so.

The Peanut Trees *Sterculia quadrifida* I know of are carrying many green pods this year. These edible fruits are ripe when they turn scarlet. Please forgo eating the seeds and bring them to the nursery!

On a smaller scale suitable for gardens, can you bring us the pods of Purple Pea Bush *Hovea acutifolia* and the scrambling purple Native Sarsaparilla *Hardenbergia violacea*? These are ripe when they go dark and hard. Keep them dry – they keep for several years in the fridge, as do the yellow peas of Heathy Parrot Pea *Dillwynia retorta* (grows to about 1 metre) and Dogwood *Jacksonia scoparia* (grows to about 2 metres). The former grows on the lowlands near Landsborough and Dogwood can be seen on the eastern slopes and other lighter soil areas.

Scentless Rosewood Synoum glandulosum.

Dogwood Jacksonia scoparia.

We observed a large, solitary approximately 2cm Carpenter Bee (yellow thorax and black abdomen) feeding on Native Sarsaparilla in Montville. In the publication *Wildlife of Greater Brisbane* it says this bee feeds on pea flowers by preference so these are a useful addition to our gardens. Carpenter Bees make a nest in rotting wood or up bamboo hollows about 7 cms in depth. They do not attack healthy wood.

Native Sarsaparilla Hardenbergia violacea.

All photos this page by Eric Anderson.

FLAXTON BIRD AND PLANT ID WALK

A Landcare Week activity

by Eric Anderson & Diana O'Connor

As a part of Barung's Landcare Week activities we coordinated a walk around what is our morning walk in Flaxton. This is a circuit mainly around the streets in Flaxton but does include going by a lagoon. Eleven people turned up on the promise that we would find at least 35 bird species. Over the years we have noted, cumulatively, about 100 species on this walk. On any given day we usually see (or hear) at least 35 – so the pressure was on. We finished the event with a morning tea having been fortunate to find 40 bird species. A highlight was the sighting of a Nankeen Night Heron (see photo at right) which was a new species for our walk. Most people concentrated on the birds but on this walk some 80 rainforest species are found.

LANDSLIP: Processes and Practices in the SC Hinterland

by Jonathan Waites

As part of Landcare Week 2013 we ran several workshops and supported a couple of others. This was one of the latter which was part of the winding up of the SunCoast FarmFLOW Project, a collaboration between Maroochy Landcare, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Sunshine Coast Regional Council, and SEQ Catchments. The day was an information session for landholders looking at local geology, the impact of landslip on the landscape and some of the activities that have been carried out as a result of the FarmFLOW funding in the Upper Mooloolah catchment.

What is a landslip (or landslide)? According to Geoscience Australia (online):

A landslide is a movement of rock, debris or earth down a slope. They result from the failure of the materials which make up the hill slope and are driven by the force of gravity. Landslides are known also as landslips, slumps or slope failure.

Our morning began with a presentation by Warwick Willmott, a recognised authority on the geology of the area with a particular interest in landslips. He pointed out that landslips were a natural feature of the Maleny-Mapleton Plateau, particularly around the escarpment (edges), due to the underlying geology in this landscape. Furthermore it is important to be able to identify the different parts of a slope (geologically speaking) to judge the degree of risk that existing or planned infrastructure (buildings, houses, etc.) in these areas may be exposed to and proceed (or not) accordingly. Seeking good advice in the first instance is the best place to begin.

Dave Clark (Sunshine Coast FarmFLOW Officer) gave a summary of the FarmFLOW activities in the upper Mooloolah area which included on-ground work undertaken by two Green Army teams coordinated by Barung in 2011 and 2012. These teams worked on several properties carrying out reveg, weed control and other associated activities aimed at stabilising/rehabilitating landslip-prone sites in the catchment. Other work coordinated by Dave on a property off Ensby Road included cleaning out drainage lines to remove water off the land (because water influences soil strength which in turn affects the soil's ability to stay in place, that is, not

slip). The beds of cleared drainage lines were left in a 'rough' state to slow down water velocity (to reduce erosion) and piles of boulders were place strategically along the course of some drainage lines to impede water flow and slow down flow rates.

Marc Amos (Catchment Coordinator, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group) presented a case study of a revegetation project carried out on an extensive slip on a cattle property off Bridge Creek. His slideshow included photos of the site pre-slip and post-slip, as well as a series of photos showing the progress of revegetation efforts. From the photos and Marc's commentary, people gained an excellent appreciation of the challenges and solutions that are involved in strategically dealing with landslips.

While we drove along Ensby Road, Warwick described the various geomorphological (landscaping) processes taking place 'in the paddock'. Nick Clancy (Sunshine Coast Council Conservation Partnerships Officer) spoke about some of Council's funding programs available to landholders for revegetation projects. He also mentioned the importance of tree species selection in relation to site, soil and expected function. I had the opportunity to remind people about the long term commitment that is often required when taking on rehabilitation projects, mentioning a couple of local properties as examples.

David Lowry reported on an extensive slip in the Booroobin area which is feeding sediment into the Mary River. A group of local landholders had become concerned about the sediment load in the Mary which was indicated by discoloured water which persisted for many months. They trekked upstream and tracked the sediment to its source, a landslip high in headwaters of the river.

David's photos and cross-section diagrams gave a clear picture of the problem while indicating the complexity of its resolution.

Around 50 interested people attended this day and Barung is thinking of organising a follow-up workshop to look at one or two properties with particular landslip problems and discuss how the landholders have approached them. If you think this might interest you, please contact Barung (5494 3151) and ask them to add your name to the list so we can gauge demand for this event.

More detailed information about landslip management is available on our website www.barunglandcare.org.au - in the menu on the left hand side of the page, click on 'Info Sheets' and then 'Landslip Fact Sheet'.

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MON to FRI: 9 am – 4 pm

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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

PIED CURRAWONG

BIRDS OF THE BLACKALL RANGE

by Eric Anderson

Pied Currawongs are an endemic species that is common along the eastern seaboard of Australia and up to 400 km inland. They are also found on Lord Howe Island. In the Blackall Range they occur in many different habitats.

The Pied Curawong is a predator which has adapted well to urbanisation and can be found in parks and gardens as well as in rural woodland.

A distinctive bird up to 500 mm long, with black and white plumage (a white window in the wing and white base to tail feathers), bright yellow eyes, strong black dagger bill and black legs. In adults the sexes are relatively similar although the females may be greyer. The juveniles are browner than adults with less white.

Their signature call is a loud ringing double curra-wong, curra-wong. They frequently call in flight and appear to be noisier early in the morning and in the evening before roosting, as well as before rain and in wind.

Pied Currawongs are an omnivorous and opportunistic feeder, eating fruit and berries, lawn insects and other food that they scavenge. During their breeding season, insects and small vertebrates such as lizards and nestling birds are frequently eaten.

The nest is a flattish stick structure in the leafy fork of a tree 7–20 m above ground, made mainly in spring. These nests are intermediate in size between the nests of Magpies and Crows. Nests may be parasitised by Channel-billed Cuckoos.

KINGS PARK AND BEYOND

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Kings Park in Perth has just celebrated its 50th Anniversary, highlighting many of Western Australia's spectacular wildflowers in a garden setting.

Kings Park demonstrated how trees, shrubs, forbs and ground covers can be grouped to match or contrast colours and forms. The disturbed roadsides north to Kalbarri and further west displayed vibrant colour against rocks or among fallen branches and logs – natural miniature gardens.

Our subtropical climate does not suit their flora but we also have many ornamental plants of our own which are suited to small and large gardens. Soil types can be variable across the Blackall Range and its slopes but invariably there are plants adapted to every soil and drainage pattern.

We may not have the intensely blue *Lechenaultia biloba* but we do have softly blue native bluebells, *Wahlenbergia* species. *Phebalium woombye*, with its rusty buds and white flowers, will grow in a pot and in quite heavy soils.

Romnalda is an attractive and neat alternative to *Lomandra*, there are several acacias and various scaevolas, *Hibbertia vestita* creates a vibrant patch of yellow, and *Goodenia ovata* could almost compete with Singapore Daisy for spread and colour.

Xanthorrhoea fulva is a wonderful accent plant for the small garden and we even have grasses like *Poa labillardieri*. *Hardenbergia violacea* looks spectacular on a trellised wall and *Melastoma malabathricum* responds to pruning with an increased floral display.

We are not short of garden plants, so move over, roses and azaleas. At least the locals are not prone to black spot and definitely more resistant to spider mite.

Our own locals do need looking after just as much as any exotic but reward us with their colour and form and make our gardens stand out from the rest.

My own wallum garden was a mass of spring colour and after my wildflower tour in the West I am keen to revamp some of the older (and more tired) parts of the main garden. Watch this space!

There is a word of warning. Automatic irrigation makes a very big difference to small more shallow rooted plants. Those without it suffered from the very hot weather while I was away.

Colour and inspiration at King's Park & Botanic Garden, Perth. *[Photo: John Dillon]*

Thank you to…

… ***Karen and David Binstead*** for the donation of a large format laminator, including bench and cutter

… ***Del and Howard Friemann*** for the kind donation of a gas barbecue.

Native Violet *Viola hederaceae* *Family: Violaceae*

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Walk along tracks through our local bushland in spring and summer, keep your eyes to the ground and you are likely to see the mauve and white flowers of the native violet. They love to grow in moist areas where dappled light reaches the floor of our wet sclerophyll forests. Look closely and you will often find discrete clumps, each with slight colour variations in their flowers, from fairly uniform mauve, to two toned mauve, mauve and white, to purple and white. Flower shape can also vary from clump to clump, with some having quite twisted upper petals, while others have these petals laid back flat.

Viola hederaceae is a perennial herb, with leaves tufted on short erect stems. Leaves are generally reinform (kidney shaped), but may range from semicircular to almost circular in shape. In size they range from 5–20 mm long by 5–30 mm wide. Leaf margins may be almost entire but usually have some degree of scalloping. Leaves are carried on petioles around 20–60 mm long, giving a plant height of 50–80 mm. Flowers are carried about 20 mm above the foliage.

Plants spread by stolons and under good conditions may cover sizeable areas with a dense mat of foliage. More often, however, they are seen mingling with other herbaceous groundcovers and grasses as part of the forest understorey, forming small clumps in spots free of competition.

A much more robust form of native violet has been popular as a garden plant for many years. This has previously been included within the species *Viola hederaceae*, but a revision by K Thiele and S Prober in 2004 separated this out as *Viola banksii*. *Viola banksii* was originally collected by Banks and Solander at Botany Bay in 1770, and occurs from Batemans Bay in New South Wales to just over the Queensland border. It is found in moist areas of coastal headlands, dune swales, coastal melaleuca swamps and rainforest margins. This species is far more vigorous and can cover large areas in gardens, to the point of becoming weedy. Flowers are larger and more strongly coloured violet and white. Leaves are also larger and are almost circular in shape.

I would strongly urge you to seek out *V. hederaceae* for use in any local landscape or revegetation work rather than planting the more readily available *V. banksii*.

Viola hederaceae is common and widespread from Tasmania, Victoria and extending along the Great Dividing Range through New South Wales into Queensland. It also occurs in South Australia. It is widespread across the Blackall Range and surrounding areas, and may be found in moist spots wherever sufficient light reaches the forest floor.

Native Violet can easily be propagated by division. If larger clumps are available, simply dig out a spadeful and transplant it to a new location. Water in well and keep moist until well established. If limited parent stock is available, individual plantlets can be potted up. I usually propagate from runners with three or four plantlets. By gathering the plantlets together, the stolons joining them together can be looped down and used to anchor the plantlets into the propagating mix. Plant so the crown of each plantlet is sitting just below soil level. Keep moist and in a shady place until plants show signs of active growth.

Viola hederaceae makes a great garden plant for a semi-shaded spot. They look good growing between stepping stones, nestled into a low rock wall, or near a water feature. They are also suitable for growing in containers, including hanging baskets. Collect various colour forms and enjoy the diversity within this local species.

Native Violet Viola hederaceae *[Photo by Wayne Webb]*

KOALAS WILL BE WELL FED *thanks to Everyone's Environment Grant program*

by Andrew Powell MP

Some of the most vulnerable koalas in Glass House will be well fed into the future thanks to the latest round of the Newman Government's Everyone's Environment program. I am pleased to announce a total of $7303 for the Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network (GMAN) that will go towards an important Koala Food Tree project.

The project will establish a koala food tree plantation to provide ongoing supply of fodder for koalas in the care of registered carers. Koala carers can find it difficult to obtain food fodder when local weather events damage or destroy other fodder resources, so this project will work towards preventing this.

In addition, I am happy to report that Barung Landcare Association has been allocated $18,045 to work with smaller urban and peri-urban landholders in the Barung region on weed control and revegetation activities. This project will develop and enhance habitat connectivity across the region and preserve biodiversity. The organisation plans to host activity days to educate locals about cleaning up weed species, planting trees, maintaining previous revegetation efforts and preparing sites for future work.

It is great to see these practical environmental projects which will deliver real community benefits. Applications for round three of the grants will be called in 2014.

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

www.barunglandcare.org.au

A FEW THOUGHTS ON NATIVE BEES

by Diana O'Connor

At a recent workshop on native bees I learned some simply applied facts.

Generally you need to have two species in flower at any one time to ensure a food supply for bees. They do not all need to be native plants. Bottlebrushes are excellent for bees. If you have a vege garden, it was suggested that you let some brassicas, such as Chinese greens and broccoli, go to flower. Bees also use coriander and flat-leaved parsley and salvias.

I have seen the small black social bees (*Trigonia sp*. which make a communal hive) feeding in large numbers on Foambark *Jagera pseudorhus* flowers. I suspect they use all such small flowered species, such as the species of *Cryptocarya*, *Guioa*, *Litsea*, *Mallotus*, *Homolanthus*, *Melicope*, *Alphitonia*, *Flindersia*, *Denhamia* and more. Getting confirmation of this is difficult as most are tall trees.

If you see the small black native bees feeding on low examples of rainforest species, we would be very interested to record your observations. There is little data available.

One disturbing item is that the exotic AFRICAN TULIP TREE is highly poisonous to native bees, which die within 10 minutes of feeding on these trees - a powerful reason for removing this attractive weed tree!

INTERESTING READING

by Jonathan Waites

www.julianburnside.com.au/jonesoration.htm

Burnside, Julian 2013: *Are we there yet?* Barry Jones Oration.

www.storyofstuff.org

The Story of Stuff Project 2013: *The Story of Solutions*. The latest in a great animation series on sustainable solutions from the Story of Stuff people.

www.yesmagazine.org

Leonard, Annie 2013: *How to be more than a mindful consumer*.

www.wakingtimes.com

Hemenway, Toby 2006: *Is Sustainable Agriculture an Oxymoron?* An interesting article, also see the first of four comments following it. Thanks to John Muir for sending it my way.

www.theconversation.com

James P et al. 2013: *After the war: why Sri Lankan refugees continue to come to Australia.* The refugees we have had volunteering for us on the Village Nursery Project have been predominantly Sri Lankan Tamils.

And the second article in this two part series: James P et al. 2013: *From recrimination to reconciliation: the path to peace in Sri Lanka.*

www.theconversation.com

Wong V & Edis R: *A More Sustainable Australia: we need to talk about our soils.*

BARUNG NEWS TO GET A NEW EDITOR!

by Eve Witney

Not sure who yet, however!

The time has come for me to move along and pass the Barung News reins on to a fresh pair of eyes.

It's been an enjoyable nine years (my goodness, where did the time go?) and I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to work with people of such integrity and passion as support Barung.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

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And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members