



Barung Landcare Association Seasonal Newsletter

Spring - Summer 2018

www.barunglandcare.org.au

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

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Barung Resource Centre

38A Coral Street
PO Box 1074
MALENY Q 4552
Mon to Fri: 9 am - 4 pm
07 5494 3151
info@barunglandcare.org.au



Barung Nurseries

Ph 5302 9900 0429 943 152
nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

Community Nursery:

Porters Lane, North Maleny
Wed to Fri: 9am - 3pm
Sat: 9am - 12noon

Production Nursery:

135 Forestry Rd
Landsborough
by appointment

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...and our many Volunteers.

Cover: Bunya Pine - *Araucaria bidwillii* tubestock at Barung Nursery

Welcome to the latest Barung News

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the Barung News. This issue features the National Landcare Conference, held in Brisbane this year. The proximity of the venue meant we had a couple of Barung folk in attendance; it also meant we had the pleasure of connecting with some international Landcare visitors (see page 11).

Our regular features

We are privileged to have a great core of 'regular' contributors who make the Barung News the interesting and informative thing that it is. Local experts write about our local ecosystems and environments and we get insights into the world of butterflies, fungi, slime moulds, birds, trees, shrubs, frogs, gardens and people. *Thankyou all!*



The 2018 Maleny Wood Expo Post Event Report is now available online at :

www.malenywoodexpo.com/reports/

(or just google 'maleny wood expo post report!')

Barung Landcare acknowledges the Yinnibarra people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand.

Barung Newsletter - Published December 2018
(Production Team: Denis Lalor, Theresa Bint)



Birds of the Blackall Range

Eric Anderson

Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*)

The Spotted Pardalote is one of Australia's smallest birds at only 90 mm long. The male's head, wings and tail are black and covered with jewel-like white spots that result in it sometimes being called Diamond Bird. It also has a white eyebrow, a yellow throat and a red rump making it a most colourful bird. Females are similar, but have less distinct markings.

They range widely through the eucalypt woodlands and forests of eastern and southern Australia, Tasmania and the far SW of Western Australia. In the Blackall Range they inhabit the denser and wetter of these forests. Spotted Pardalotes eat a wide variety of small invertebrates, including thrips, moths, caterpillars, small beetles and spiders. They especially favour scale insects, for which they forage among the foliage of trees, particularly eucalypts and wattles.

Spotted Pardalotes are not only beautiful - they are useful creatures too. By feeding on lerps and psyllids, they help keep our forests healthy. Psyllids are plant lice that suck the sap from eucalypts: not a problem for a healthy tree, but when a forest is under stress because of weeds, drought, logging or changed fire patterns, high numbers of psyllids can cause eucalypts to become sick and eventually die. So by eating lerps and psyllids, Spotted Pardalotes are playing their part to lessen the stress on our native plants.

Active but inconspicuous, they forage high in the tree canopy. Usually they occur singly or in pairs, but in autumn-winter they often form small to large flocks (up to several hundred birds). They are readily identified by their call - a repeated three-note whistle, the second two notes higher than the first.

Spotted Pardalotes nest in burrows up to 600 mm long. They can be found in an earthen bank beside a creek, a road cutting, or on the side of a cliff, and on rare occasions they nest in a hollow tree. They also sometimes nest in pipes, carpet rolls and garage roll-a-doors, so don't be too surprised if you find one in an odd spot. Both parents sit on the 4 white eggs for about 14-16 days, and feed the chicks once they hatch. They keep the nest clean by carrying faecal sacs (droppings surrounded by a mucous membrane) out of the nest and deposit them far away. Some birds, especially the males, return year after year to the same nest site or to one close by.





Wildlife Friendly Gardening

Joan Dillon

Perhaps I don't remember what the spring growth was like last year, but for the moment, the desirable plants are outstripping the weeds. Bandicoots are, however, another matter entirely. Moist soil under mulch proved very attractive, with some plants completely dug out and others hanging in there by one root. Staked circles of chicken wire were not enough, so a hole for the plant was cut in a large piece of wire laid on the ground and firmly held in place. Large, heavy rocks have also been useful! Inspection of recent plantings is required every morning. And I thought turkeys were a problem!

However, the garden is colourful, and birds abound by day. The *Syzygium* windbreak is about to commence "buzzing" with both native and European bees as well as many other insects. Sequential flowering of melaleucas/callistemons is keeping the honeyeaters in the garden although there are fewer scarlet honeyeaters now that the big *Melaleuca viminalis* has finished for the time being.

The large pink flowers of *Hibiscus splendens* are attracting plenty of insect attention as are the flowers on a range of leptospermums. Leptospermums are excellent garden plants as their size and form is suited to the smaller garden. They do respond to pruning so don't be afraid to shape them if that is needed.

My wallum grass tree, *Xanthorrhoea fulva* is sending up yet another flower spike and is visited by honeyeaters as each individual flower opens. The little White-Browed Scrub Wrens have definitely been breeding, are remarkably unconcerned by the "gardener", and are now regularly visiting the water dishes to drink and to splash. I even cleaned some windows so that I could see them better. That's dedication to a wildlife friendly garden!

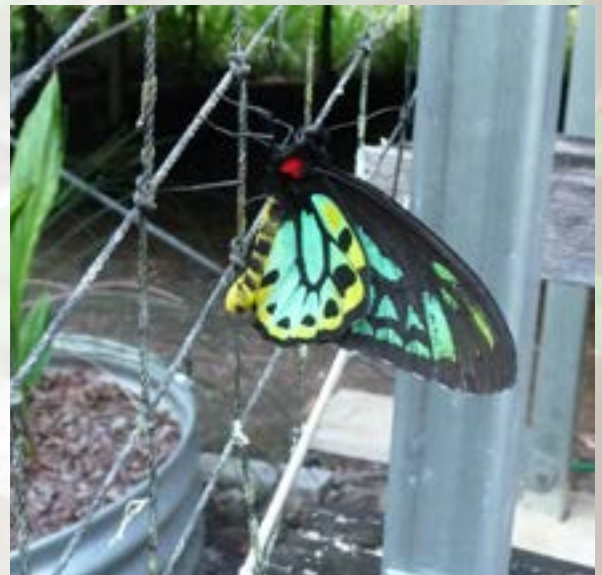
Fig birds and others have been frequenting the large *Ficus virens*, not a tree for the urban garden, but it's a great source of seasonal fruit, as are all the figs.

Density, variety, and layered planting has provided safe areas for many birds, and a few animals, and is the key to habitat in the garden. An over-population of native *Melomys* required re-location but they were mostly in the warm, dry shed happily creating nest material from the lining of various stored items. There are limits. A small wire cage trap baited with ripe banana was effective and safe.

It's a busy time of year but it's getting warmer and it's great to be outside. Enjoy it.



Butterfly and bottle brush



A very welcome visitor



Emerald Spotted Treefrog



Golden Cup Fungus

Gretchen Evans

Our first fungal foray to Linda Garrett in Mapleton was in 2008. It is such a good site we try to visit each year. On one occasion we found over 60 different specimens, but this year because it was so dry we only found 35.

The interesting thing is that although we often find the same fungi about 20% of those appearing in the forest are ones we have never found before.

This year we came across several small yellow Cup fungi growing on wood. They were about 5 mm in diameter.

Fungi are largely classified by the manner in which they produce spores. Cup or Disc fungi usually have 8 spores in a special structure called an ascus. This group as a whole are called Ascomycetes.

I have only written about one Cup fungus before and this one was a pink fungus called *Phillipsia* found in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.

There is not much known about this group in Australia as there is only one person in South Australia working on them. Thus we do not know the ID of this one. This is yet another example of how little research money is allocated to fungi in Australia.

For more information about fungi, local fungi forays and more please visit the Queensland Mycological Society website: www.qldfungi.org.au



Rambles on the Range

Raine See

Our group has rambled a lot on the range and but lately we have been rambling off the range. In July thirty of us rambled along Currimundi Creek, under Kawana Way and on into Kawana Forest which is beautiful but was a bit soggy under foot. The following month we joined with the Currimundi Catchment group to explore Leacy's Reserve to observe wildflowers as part of the Sunshine Coast's Wildflower Festival. The walk was led by Tony Moorhead, president of CCCG with welcome wildflower knowledge from other members of the group. After getting a taste for wildflowers the following month we ventured into Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park on the northern bank of Currimundi Lake. The wildflowers there were stunning and seemed to be blooming much later than in other areas.

To finish off the year we visited Mary and John King's property on the Mary River at Conondale. John took us for an hour's ramble along the Mary River looking specifically at their bush foods. We then headed back to their house to sample and buy their delicious rainforest products such as glace sandpaper figs, tamarind liqueur and many other products.

A big thanks to all the ramblers who support the walks and remember --- prescription nature!
A walk in nature cures many ills!

A special mention: Halina Green has provided beautiful photos of many Rambles over the last couple of years - thanks, Halina!





Nature Journaling - Introduction to Nature Journaling Workshop

Jonathan Waites

We will be holding a nature journaling workshop, **Introduction to Nature Journaling**, early next year with Paula Peeters from Paperbark Writer. Nature journaling is the practice of recording your drawing or writing in response to observations in nature. It is a useful process for encouraging and enhancing a connection with nature, self and place, which is obligatory in fostering greater care for nature.



Nature journaling is a practice that we can define and develop for ourselves. You don't have to be an artist or an author to create a nature journal – the practice is as important as the end result. Simply taking the time to stop and look, to really see, demands we slow down and observe where we are. It is a practice in mindfulness, pulling us out of the clouds and grounding us in the present. It's also a way to learn more about nature, the birds, the bees, the trees, the systems that connect us all together – and about ourselves.

Paula's description:

"This is the basic, beginner-level workshop that's designed to demonstrate to each participant that they can draw and write, even if they have no prior skills in these areas. Along the way, we will explain aspects of ecology relevant to the workshop venue, and introduce basic materials for nature journaling.

Suitable for ages 15 and above. Participants are required to bring their own basic materials including unlined sketchbook, 2B pencil and permanent ink fineliner pen."



More information about nature journaling and Paula's approach can be found on her website, along with her ebook, Making a date with nature: An introduction to nature journaling which is free to download.

Confirmed date, place and time will be emailed out to members as soon as the details have been decided.

- Illustrations credit Paula Peeters





Public Tree Plant

Jonathan Waites

It's a long time since Barung held a community tree plant. Together with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and Hinterland Bush Links we are offering you the opportunity to come along and be part of **The Catchment Community Tree Plant**, to be held over two days in March and April next year. We will be contributing to the revegetation of a slip-prone block bordering Baroon Pocket Dam which was recently purchased by Seqwater, hopefully getting two to three thousand trees in the ground. Revegetation and regeneration techniques will be employed over the next few years by Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group to build on restoration work begun by the previous landholder, providing native habitat and stability to this former grazing property.

Due to limited access to the planting site, planters will meet initially at the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group office and car-pool in 4WD vehicles from there to the property. We are requesting people book on our website (www.barunglandcare.org.au) or by phoning the office (5494 3151) for catering and logistic purposes. Unfortunately we are obliged to limit numbers to a figure we can efficiently manage on the site, so we encourage early booking.

Please include in your attire on the day closed footwear and a hat; a water bottle is recommended along with your favourite insect repelling concoction and brand of sunscreen. A light lunch will be supplied following planting activities and a guided walk and talk down to the dam is on offer for those who are interested and have surplus energy.

In summary: Two tree planting days, Saturday 9th March, 9 – 12 and Saturday 13th April, 9 – 12. Meet to carpool at Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group office, 455 North Maleny Rd at 8.35am. Further details will be emailed closer to the date and upon registration.

Register here for March: www.barunglandcare.org.au/event-3154391

Register here for April: www.barunglandcare.org.au/event-3172253



**LAKE
BAROON
CATCHMENT
CARE
GROUP**



Hinterland Bush Links
connecting restoring protecting

Photo: Where the action will be...



For full details of upcoming workshops go to
barunglandcare.org.au/events



Barung Nurseries

Cam Burton - Nurseries Manager

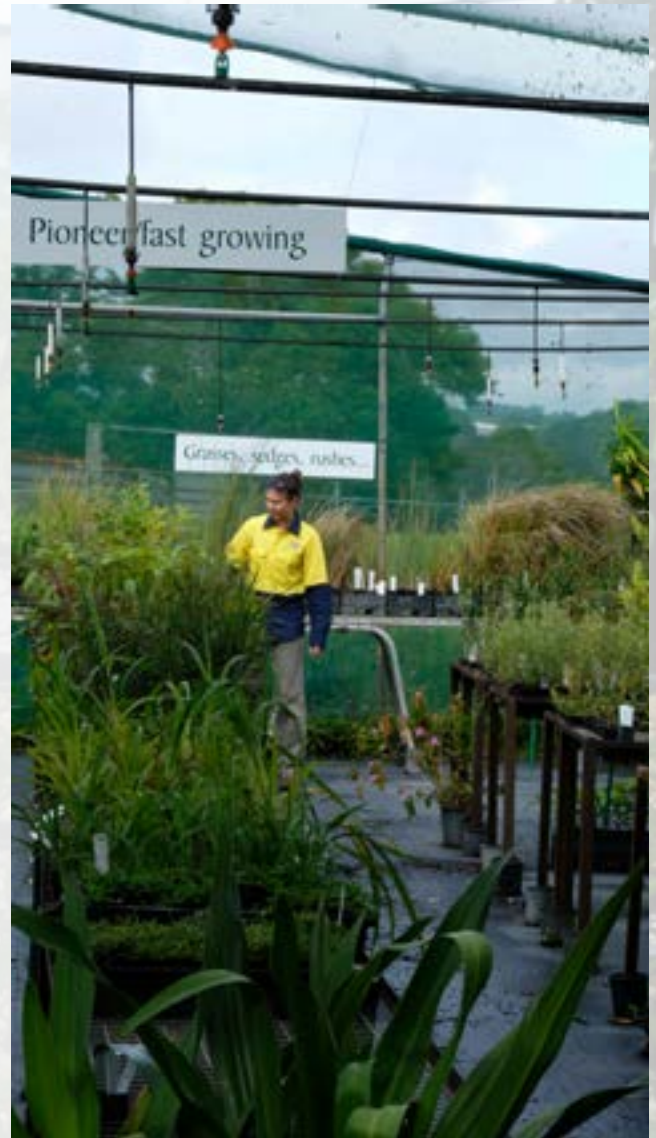
Once again we attended the Queensland Garden Show at Nambour. The nights and mornings were frosty followed by clear sunny skies for the event. Thanks to all of the volunteers who attended this year, you provide invaluable support. This is good event for Barung to attend, not only to sell some plants and spread the Barung word, it also supports the 'Living Backyard' concept run by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. This particular event is an opportunity to introduce garden lovers with the 'Garden for Wildlife' program, and wildlife gardening show goes quickly snapped up some of our stock of *Banksia spinulosa* and the *Hovea acutifolia*. Let's hope the plantings support some local wildlife.

Also helping us out at the show was the second intake of trainees from the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. It was an opportunity for them to see the extent of the local horticultural industry and to also test their knowledge gained in the program, delivering some excellent customer service. Not long after the event saw the completion of the program for the trainees. They all provided great input into the nurseries during their time. Thank you to all trainees, your efforts were truly appreciated by the nurseries' team.

A plant that you would not have seen in the Barung nursery for quite some time, which will be arriving soon, is the Native Olive, *Olea paniculata*. The Olea hasn't been seen in the nursery for some time because it has been about seven years since it has successfully produced a significant crop of fruit in this region. The Native Olive is a medium to tall buttressing tree of Subtropical, Dry and Littoral rainforests. It naturally occurs along the Australian east coast from Newcastle to Cape York Peninsula. It grows naturally on Lord Howe Island, in New Caledonia, New Guinea and Indonesia. It is a fast grower, does well on most soil types and can be planted out in full sun.

The Olea had a very productive fruiting recently with many reports of the wonderful season told and typically described as seeing a 'dump of seeds' under one tree then walking into another area of the bush to find 'another huge dump'. The heavy fruiting must have provided a bountiful harvest for the fruit eating birds such as the Regent Bowerbird, the Green Catbird, Top knot pigeons and White headed pigeons which all feed on it.

The story of the Olea's sporadic fruiting highlights the challenges of supplying consistent rainforest stock for revegetation as unlike Eucalyptus or dry fruited species most fleshy fruited rainforest plants have seed which cannot be stored and must be sown fresh. So it has been a long wait, but eventually nature has provided the right set of conditions for pollination, fertilisation and fruit set. The Olea have germinated well, are tubed up and growing strong and will arrive in the nursery soon.



Barung 2018 AGM

Barung Landcare's AGM, held at the Maleny RSL on November 3rd saw a good turnout. The new Management Committee was elected: thanks to Darryl Ebenezer of QWaLC for conducting the election.

Barry Beale's generous bequest was acknowledged, and we learned of his work in Barung's early days.

Thanks to John Birbeck, Senior Environment Officer from Sunshine Coast Regional Council who entertained and informed with a 25-year perspective on nature conservation in our region.

A huge thank you to outgoing Secretary Elaine Ricketts. Elaine has done a sterling job in what can be a very demanding role. Thanks for your enthusiasm, energy and motivation, Elaine!



Photos:

-2018/19 Committee Members John Dillon, Sue Brieschke, Fiona Emberton & Alan Harrington
-Darryl Ebenezer from QWaLC



The 2018 Barung Landcare Annual Report is available online at :
www.barunglandcare.org.au/annual_report

Barung Natural Area Services

It's been another busy and productive time for Natural Area Services, with new work started throughout the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay Council regions.

BNAS has also undertaken revegetation, restoration and weed control projects in partnership with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Hinterland Bush Links, Healthy Land and Water, Mooloolah River Water Watch and private landholders on the Blackall Range.

Thanks to our hard working BNAS crews for their continued excellent work.



BNAS crew at the Maleny Community Precinct

Volunteer for the 2019 Maleny Wood Expo

If you would like to meet new people and be part of the iconic Maleny Wood Expo, why not join the team of dynamic volunteers that helps keep this event alive and thriving?

We have many spots waiting for you to fill - from selling raffle tickets, helping on the gates, the Landcare BBQ and more...



Get Involved!

Join the Expo volunteer team and give our Expo taste of Maleny's famous country hospitality.

Phone Volunteer Coordinator
Kellie Huddy 07 5494 3151
or email info@malenywoodexpo.com



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Maleny Wood Expo

Saturday 4th to Monday 6th May 2019

Maleny Showgrounds
Sunshine Coast Hinterland



2018 National Landcare Conference

Ian McMaster

In October, Danielle Steele and Denis Lalor were delighted to attend the 2018 National Landcare Conference held in Brisbane.

Hosted by Pip Courtney, ABC Landline, the conference was opened by the extremely insightful and motivating Major General Michael Jeffery (Landcare's Patron) who discussed the challenges faced by Landcare groups Australia-wide, celebrated Landcare's successes and shared some of his vision for our future directions. The keynote address was given by Professor Mark Howden of the Climate Change Institute, who shared with us the daunting and challenging future we all face as custodians of this land. The remainder of the program was divided into four streams; Sustainable Agriculture, Community in Action, Partnerships and Environment. A plethora of speakers were on offer in each of these streams, all of whom had fascinating topics, research and discussion.



Congratulations to LBCCG

Congratulations to Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group who took home the Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices Award.



John Dillon, Nikky Corero, Dr Joy Tukahirwa, Theresa Bint & Ian McMaster

International Landcare visitors

During October we hosted two international visitors here for the Landcare Conference held in Brisbane this month.

Dr. Joy Tukahirwa heads up Landcare in the East African nation of Uganda. Joy is a retired university professor and lives in an area of Uganda adjacent to one of the few remaining refuges for Mountain Gorillas. Her greatest concern is the continued clearing of their rainforest habitat for agriculture.

Nikky Cordero works for Landcare in the Philippines, and is primarily working with farmers to help them better manage their agricultural land. His interest is improving agricultural productivity by integrating conservation with agriculture. Barung has a long history of engagement with the Landcare movement in the Philippines, and, Nicky says, is held in very high regard there as a result.

Both Joy and Nicky were interested in Barung's operating model. Like most Landcare movements, funding the projects they want to undertake is a big task, and they were greatly interested in how Barung uses its commercial arms to fund its education and outreach programs. They were also very interested in the breadth of our membership base, where the whole of the community, not just the agriculture sector, is actively involved in Landcare.

They were also interested in how leadership worked in an organisation like ours. We told them that our greatest strength was that we had access to all sorts of expertise among our membership, and that the leadership resided with whomever had the skills to deal with the issue at hand.



Slime Moulds in the Garden: *Fuligo septica*

Here at Coral St, our Front Garden for Wildlife is thriving – we’ve been treated to some wonderful floral displays; have observed native bees and honeybees, hoverflies, ladybirds, spiders and skinks; and collected a bit of seed.

Recently, we’ve also welcomed the occasional appearance of *Fuligo septica* – also known by the delightful common name of Dog’s Vomit Slime Mould. These cryptic and curious additions to our garden’s population first appeared as bright yellow, scrambled-egg like masses on the wood chip mulch. It didn’t take more than a few hours for them to morph into the crusty brownish blobs that give them their common name; finally, their dusty, dark brownish appearance signals the spore production stage.



*Jono getting up close & personal with Dog's Vomit Slime Mould - *Fuligo septica**

Slime moulds are not fungi: members of this polyphyletic group can exist as single-celled organisms, living freely while food - microorganisms on decaying plant material - is abundant. When food becomes scarce, they congregate into a multi-celled body, which can detect food sources via airborne chemicals. The slime mould can move at speeds of up to 5 cm per hour in its quest for food or a good spot to sporulate. Spores are released to be carried and spread by wind, water or animals.



The changing face of Dog's Vomit Slime Mould in the course of one day





Barung 2018 Bursaries Jonathan Waites

The 2018 Barung Landcare Bursary, awarded to a University of Sunshine Coast student was received by Bachelor of Science student Jasmin Petersen who is majoring in sustainability, biology and animal ecology with an interest in ecosystem change and adaptation. This \$1,000 bursary is awarded to a University of Sunshine Coast student enrolled in the Sustainability major or minor, who demonstrates passion and leadership, and an interest in pursuing future research or projects in sustainable socio-ecological systems.

Esmi Doonan was the Barung Landcare Peter Oliver Memorial Bursary inaugural recipient in 2017. This was the first year of a three-year commitment to provide a \$500 bursary to a student of Maleny State High School (MSHS) who demonstrates passion and leadership, and an interest in pursuing future studies or projects in the field of environment and sustainability.

This year the award was won by her sister, long-term Maleny State High School Environment Committee member (2018 Co-President) and School Captain, Mikki Doonan. Throughout her final year Mikki has been involved in a range of environmental and humanitarian related activities, including MSHS's Drastic Plastic project, a showing of the Stop Adani documentary in Montville, Environment Week and the Maleny Wood Expo. Together with other students she visited an orphanage in Nepal, teaching English, dance, art, sport and magic. Mikki has a passion for people and the environment; recognising the inter-twining of them both she hopes to study Medicine in Townsville (while also picking up a bit of marine biology). We wish her well with pursuing her large range of interests in 2019 and hope she can find time to visit and give us an update on her adventures sometime down the track.



Mikki Doonan, MSHS 2018 recipient, receives her Bursary award from Barung President, Ian McMaster

SAVE THE DATE

Bunya Dreaming

Saturday 26th of January 2019

Ewen Maddock Dam
Opposite The Big Cart Track
Landsborough

Barung members are invited to celebrate the harvest of the Bunya at **"Bunya Dreaming"**

Beverly Hand has put out the call far and wide for all Bunya Dreamers to come together 26 January 2019 to celebrate the harvest of the Bunya.

Bunya Dreaming maintains a strong partnership with Barung Landcare, with Barung managing the registrations and other administrative services.

We hope you, as long time supporters can join us!

Register online at barunglandcare.org.au/events



Stingless Bees

Following a request for help from Maleny State School, Barung was delighted to source and donate a native stingless bee hive stocked with 20,000 of the little critters (give or take a few) to their Garden Club. Dean Bryant from Brymac Native Bees at Peachester arrived and installed the hive in the garden while introducing the students to the habits and requirements of sugarbag bees (*Tetragonula carbonaria*) necessary to ensure they survive and thrive in their new home.



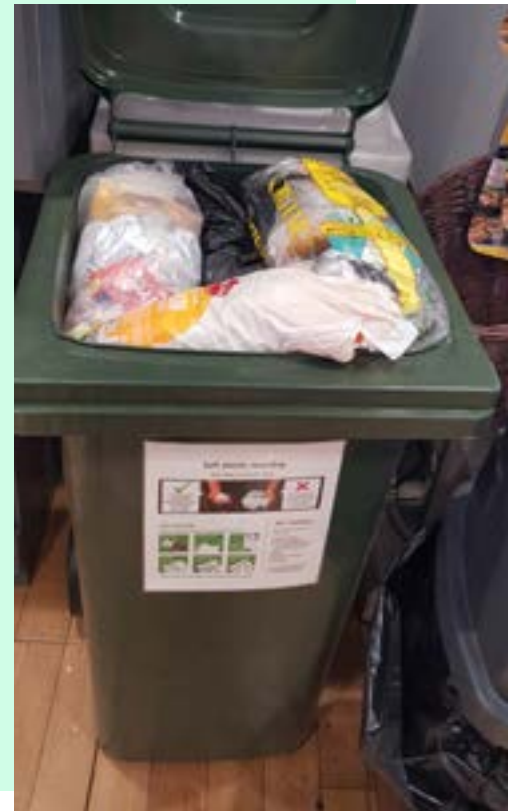
Soft Plastic

For those who haven't yet noticed, there is a green wheelie bin located inside IGA (opposite the check-out counters) in which you can deposit your soft plastics. Apparently Maleny State School (MSS) students were instrumental in getting it in place – see the article by Angela Reedman-Polinski in the November edition of the Hinterland Times about the wonderful efforts MSS students are making in promoting recycling, composting and gardening, both in the school and at home.

To determine which plastic items belong in the soft plastics bin, simply do the scrunch test – give the critter a good squeeze, if it scrunches easily into a ball it's in. For example, bread bags, frozen food bags, rice and pasta bags, etc. Note that soft plastic is not to be put into the Sunshine Coast Council recycling bins (yellow and lime lids) nor are plastic lids; if you are not sure what items are eligible to go into these bins, have a look at their Waste and Recycling guide available at,

<https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/>

[Living-and-Community/Waste-and-Recycling/](#)
[Recycling-and-Waste-Education/Recycling-Fact-Sheets.](#)



Thanks

Many thanks to the generous person (you know who you are!) who recently donated a new Honda brushcutter to Barung – thankyou, it is already being put to good use!

To Theresa Bint for the loan of her urn at short notice for the Fungi: The super heroes of our future workshop and the Rainforest restoration and weed management field trip.

Many thanks to all the Barung members who helped out at the Barung AGM.

Photo: Barung employee Danielle Steele with our donated brush cutter



Many thanks to our
BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Ananda Marga River School
Blackall Range Independent School
Crystal Waters Community Co-operative
Hanson Construction
Happy Little Gardener
Hinterland Business Centre
Karom Salt
Lapmist Pty Ltd
Montville Real Estate
Top of the Hill

Barung Landcare

Membership Rates and Benefits

Individual/family MEMBERSHIP \$ 35 pa

This entitles you to the quarterly *Barung News*, two free trees from the Nursery, discounts with participating, local businesses and enables you to support Barung Landcare's work in preserving and enhancing the natural environment of the Blackall Range and environs.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTOR \$ 55 pa

Business Contributors (\$55/year) are entitled to

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

BUSINESS SPONSOR \$ 275 pa

Business Sponsors (\$275/year) are entitled to

- a business card size advert in *Barung's* quarterly newsletter x 4 issues
- acknowledgement of your support at Barung displays
- three (3) free trees and
- membership discounts on Nursery plant purchases.



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