



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

NEWSLETTER

April/May 1993

NURSERY SITE UPDATE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON
TUESDAYS AND
THURSDAYS 9.00 - 4.00 PM

Barung would especially like to Thank Barry Beale, Phil Jacobs, Peter Bray, Henry Hurst and Lyndon McPherson for the amazing development of the shed. We had the roof wetting a couple of weeks ago and that was great fun and a major achievement by the crew who has been putting all their energy into our new office and potting shed. It looks wonderful and it will be a delight to have the whole Barung operation in the same place at last.

Hopefully we will be close to moving in by the time our next newsletter comes out in a couple of months.

MEMBERSHIPS \$15.00 per year.

Please note that if your membership is lapsed it will be written on the address label on the front of your newsletter. Memberships are payable at all different times of the year according to the time you joined.

Also don't forget that every member of Barung is eligible for 10 free trees for every year of membership. We also offer free advice to any member who would like somebody to come out and talk to them about their property.

MALENY SHOW.

The show will be coming up soon and we need people to person the stall for the two days. The shifts are reasonably short and last year a good time was had by all who helped. Please ring Lexy on Tues and Thurs. on 943922.

I CARE.



LANDCARE.

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS

Although we tried very hard to be organised well before the submissions were due, we still found ourselves absolutely frantic as the date drew nearer. We did, however, come up with a very good proposal for a full-time co-ordinator. As this is not a common occurrence in the Landcare movement it will be interesting to see how we go.

The outcome of the Integrated Catchment Management Funding Submissions is still not known, so we also resubmitted the Dairy Effluent Proposal to the National Landcare Program.

As the submissions for the co-ordinator was so extensive we felt it unnecessary to resubmit the Mary River Congress submission which was submitted to the Integrated Catchment Management Funding.

We won't hear anything for about 6mths.

LABOUR EXCHANGE

Barung is interested in whether any of our members wish to register for a tree planting exchange group. We have identified the need for people who can't afford to pay for tree planting to get together with other like minded people to help to get the trees in the ground.

It would work thus: if we had a tree planting on one property, that property owner would then be obliged to go and plant trees on the properties of all those people who planted on hers/his property.

What we are proposing is that anybody who wants to be part of this group should ring Lexy and leave their name and phone number and we will then co-ordinate tree plants on different properties.

LANDCARE & INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT.

A note from the Qld. Landcare Council.(QLC)

A recommendation came from the State Catchment Management Co-ordinating Committee which addressed possible confusion between Landcare and Integrated Catchment Management:

- The use of the term "Catchment Care Groups" would be discouraged; and
- Qld Landcare Council should encourage Landcare groups to deal with water and river catchment problems and issues at a local and sub catchment scale where this is appropriate.

WANTED

POTS - WE NEED YOUR OLD POTS BUT WE ARE FUSSY AND REALLY ONLY WANT THE FORESTRY TUBES (THE SQUARE DEEP ONES) AND ANY SIX OR EIGHT INCH ONES (THAT'S DEPTH). SAMPLES OF THESE THREE ARE ON THE FENCE DOWN AT THE NURSERY SITE SO PLEASE CHECK THEM OUT WHEN PASSING.

Barung Landcare Association Inc., The Enterprise Centre Maleny

23 Coral Street, Maleny Qld. 4552

Phone: 074-943 922

Fax: 074-943 506

The recommendation was welcomed and accepted by QLC. Many Landcare groups already address catchment related issues and the QLC wishes to further promote this important role for Landcare Groups.

Tax concessions

Under section 75D of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, primary producers and other businesses earning income from the use of rural land can claim an outright deduction for capital expenditure on certain landcare operations.

Strategies that qualify for outright tax deductions include:

- eradicating or exterminating pest animals or weeds from the land;
- taking measures to prevent or combat land degradation; and
- erecting fences to exclude livestock or pests from degraded areas.

Expenditure on fuel and chemicals used to control pests may be claimed as an outright deduction under either section 51 (1) or section 75D of the Act.

This information is a guide only. For further information on taxation deduction decisions or ruling on indication tax matters, you should contact the Commissioner for Taxation.

Landcare...



...It's in your hands.

Landcare and Environment Action Program (LEAP)

LEAP provides an opportunity for young Australians between the ages of 15 and 20 to improve their long-term employment prospects by undertaking structured training and by taking part in projects involving landcare, the environment, cultural heritage management and conservation activities. Along the way, LEAP gives sponsoring organisations the chance to undertake projects that will benefit the community.

Under LEAP, Commonwealth, State and local government agencies together with non-profit community organisations contracted by DEET act as 'brokers'. Their job is to identify appropriate sponsoring bodies to arrange formal training and work placements for LEAP participants. Sponsors can include State and local governments and landcare and environment groups.

Brokers and sponsoring organisations receive an allowance from the Commonwealth to cover the costs associated with their involvement in the program. Placements last for up to 26 weeks, and participants receive a weekly training allowance.

Leaping in Maleny

A LEAP scheme has been initiated here on the Sunshine Coast with the Sunshine Coast Environment Council acting as the Brokers. There are 10 groups which have been set up on the coast. We have a group of 12 young adults working up here under the supervision of Roger Westcott.

Barung has identified 5 projects that we feel are a priority in the community and the group have started working on a couple of these projects. Apart from some minor hiccups (learning to work as a team is not easy, as this group has discovered!), things are starting to sort themselves out. As the whole program is a learning process for everybody involved it seems to me to be very important that we all learn from our mistakes.

National & State Landcare Co-ordinators Visit Barung

Helen Alexander, Jenny Molloy and Sam Brown the national, state and regional landcare co-ordinators paid us a visit in late March to get an idea what a group co-ordinator has been able to achieve over the last 2 years.

As Barung is one of the few landcare groups in Qld which has a co-ordinator they were very interested in what we have managed to achieve and

what we felt were important skills to have in this position. The impression I got was that they were extremely impressed and went away feeling that employing co-ordinators is the way to go for landcare groups.

We had a very interesting morning with a visit to the office to pick me up and then a quick jaunt down to the Nursery Site to check out the progress of the new office and potting shed and the tree production project. They had a chance to meet some of our volunteers in action. Next we visited the Bridge Creek Landslip Rehabilitation Site and talked about what's going on there and the community input. We then took a drive over to Kondillia Falls Rd to look at some examples of the plantings that Robert Tap and Reforestation crew have been doing on properties at Western Ave.

It was overall a very positive day and I feel that much information was exchanged and a couple of good contacts were made.

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TREE HEIST UPDATE.

In response to our letter of complaint about the tree heist to Nth Qld. we've had a couple of letters back but basically they are saying that they realise the importance of our supply of trees but it was a very important project and they will try and make sure it doesn't happen again.

HOW DO YOU TELL IF YOUR FRUIT IS RIPE?

Use your senses. Has the fruit changed colour, for instance from green to purple. Has the fruit or seeds started to drop? Have any pods started to open? These are all signs that the fruit and seeds are ripe. Cut some of the fruit open to see if it contains any seeds. Sometimes fruit sets without seeds or the seeds don't develop or are eaten by grubs. Cut a sample of the seeds open as well if they are large enough. A quick look using your common sense will tell you much. Are there signs of grubs? Does it look healthy? All of these things will give you a guide as to when to collect your seeds. Include a largish sample of leaves if you can reach them so that I can identify your plant. No more than 500 seeds of any one type please, except for Quandong and White Beech as these are in big demand and store well. We also need macaranga and silky oak. We have enough red cedar.

Phone Jo Ferrier at home 943551 or Lexy on 943922 on Tuesdays and Thursdays or leave your seeds at the Enterprise Centre on Tuesdays or the nursery site in Bicentennial Lane on Thursdays. If you don't want to collect your seeds, phone me and I'll have the pleasure of doing it for you.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR **PAINTERS** TO GET THE OFFICE AND POTTING SHED PAINTED SOON.

IF YOU'RE KEEN TO GIVE US A HAND, PLEASE RING LEXY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON 943922.

EARTHWORMS

"The intestines of the Earth" - Aristotle

Foreword

(quotation from CSIRO Rural Research No. 141(88/89)

"Overseas scientists have reported massive yield increases in crops grown in experimental pots when earthworms are added - an average increase of 83% for millet, lima beans, soybeans, and wheat in one study. In another, dry matter production of grass, wheat and clover increased by 287%, 111% and 877% respectively when earthworms were present".

Introduction

Of the great multitude of soil organisms, none work harder to improve our soil than the humble earthworm. There are in excess of 3000 species of earthworms, and they have a range of activities, tolerances, requirements and effects on soils. Many species have restricted distributions, but the range of climates in Queensland means that a great variety of natives plus both tropical and temperate forms of exotic introduced species occur here.


The Effects of Earthworms on Soil

- (I) Break up organic materials.
- (2) Mix these organic materials into the soil.
- (3) Break up root mats in pastures and thick layers of leaf litter.
- (4) Increase microbial activity in the soil.
- (5) Increase the availability to plants of nutrients in soil and organic matter.
- (6) Improve the crumb structure of soils and so.....
- (7) Increase the amount of water that can be held in soils.
- (8) Allow better penetration of plant roots, oxygen and water into soils.
- (9) Increase crop and pasture yields.
- (10) Help reclaim land (including mine dumps) by increasing soil fertility.
- (II) Nutrients become more readily available to plants. Nitrogen, calcium, magnesium, potassium, phosphorus and molybdenum are more available in worm casts.
- (12) The gastronomic habits of earthworms also increase plant growth through improvements to the physical properties of soils. In New Zealand, some soils have a 20% greater water holding capacity since the introduction of European earthworms (i.e. more water available for plant growth).

John Page

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IF YOU'RE
PLANNING ON
PLANTING ANY TREES
THIS YEAR WELL...



NOW'S THE TIME

AS SOON AS WE GET A BIT MORE
RAIN IT'S TIME TO DO IT -
SO GO FOR IT!

DATE CLAIMERS

27 April	Rural Sub - at the Enterprise Centre at 7.30pm.
5-6 May	State Landcare Groups Conference, Townsville.
6 May	ICM. Meeting - Gympie Forestry Centre at 7.15pm.
11 May	ICM. Meeting - Kenilworth State School, Elizabeth St, 7.15pm.
18 May	Committee Meeting at the Enterprise Centre at 7.30pm.
25 May	Enterprise Sub - at the Enterprise Centre at 7.00pm.
25 May	Integrated Catchment Management Meeting - Maryborough-7.15pm.

BARUNG LANDCARE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO JEAN JARVIS ON THE LOSS OF HER HUSBAND CEC, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HELP HE GAVE BARUNG OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS.

- (14) Less liable to erosion or compaction.
- (15) Worm castings are much superior to the best garden compost. High concentrations of trace elements are present in forms readily available to plants.
- (16) Increased microbial activity further aids organic matter decomposition and hence nutrient availability to plants.
- (17) The physical properties of soils is improved thus increasing plant growth.
- (18) Burrows are channels for roots and water. A French researcher poured 100 litres of water down one earthworm burrow in a pasture soil abundant with worms.
- (19) Earthworms even have a hormone-like effect on plant growth due to microbial metabolites within their casts.

(20) *Pontoscolex corethrurus*, common throughout the tropical lowlands of Queensland, can ingest up to 300 tonnes of soil per hectare per year.

- (21) Earthworms are vectors for the transmission of spores which cause nitrogen nodulation in tree roots.

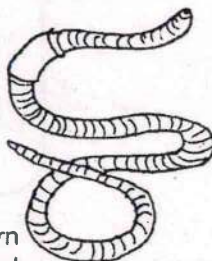
What Earthworms "Like"

- (1) They need lots of food if they are to grow and multiply (i.e. leaves, weeds, vegetable scraps, compost and animal manures really turn them on).
- (2) Mulches and ground cover plants help keep the soil cool and reduce surface water loss; and so extend earthworm activity.
- (3) Each species of earthworm has its preferred range of soil pH. The further the soil pH varies from this range, the smaller is the population of the particular species. Earthworms are absent when the pH is very acid or very alkaline.

What Earthworms "Dislike"

- (1) Soil temperatures above 25°C usually prove fatal and death is more rapid the drier the environment becomes. To avoid roasting, earthworms go deep - up to 60 cm - and rest until conditions are more favourable near the surface.
- (2) They don't like getting chopped by spades, etc. or smeared flat by plough shears.
- (3) If ploughing forms a hard pan in the soil, earthworms may be trapped above it and therefore die through desiccation during summer.
- (4) Cultivation is definitely not good for earthworms.
- (5) Earthworms don't like being in contact with fertilisers (or indeed any dry material) which can in some cases burn holes in them and dehydrate them.
- (6) **The long-term effect of fertilisers on earthworms varies with fertiliser type and soil type.** If fertiliser use or other farming practices greatly acidifies the soil, then earthworm populations will decline because of this acidity. However, if applied fertilisers increase plant growth and hence increase the return of organic matter to the soil, then this will increase earthworm numbers.

- (7) Some earthworms prefer light, loamy soils whereas others thrive in heavy clays.
- (8) Many pesticide sprays are lethal, particularly the fumigants and nematicides Chloropicrin, Methan, Methyl Bromide, DD and Chlordane. Many carbonates (Aldicarb, Carbaryl, Dithiocarbamate, Methomyl, Oxaniyl, Propoxur) are highly toxic as are Benomyl (Benlate) and Thiabendazole. AldAn, Dieldrin, TCA, Atrocine, DDT, Lindane, Arsenic and high levels of copper salts can seriously reduce earthworm populations. Most herbicides have little effect when applied as recommended.
- (9) Don't over water.
- (10) Most indigenous earthworms in the western wheat belt seem to be eliminated by agricultural activities.
- (11) The burning off of straw in cropping paddocks deters earthworms.



Information compiled by Gary Loewenthal for the Gympie & District Landcare Group

NATIONAL ESTATE

The Australian Heritage Commission recently received a nomination covering the majority of the Conondale Range Area. Two places, the Bundaroo Creek catchment and existing Conondale National Parks NP 477 and NP 1100 are already listed on the National Estate, but this nomination, if accepted would extend the area considerably to the North, South and West. While it certainly won't preclude logging it would provide official recognition of the environmental significance of the Conondales.

Rural Sub Report

With the successful planting about 500 trees and shrubs on the Bridge Creek Site and a good lot of rain immediately afterwards things are hopefully going well down there.

Craig came along and talked at the last meeting and presented us with a copy of his Woody Weeds report. Quite a few people turned up and we all had a good cuppa and a chat after Craig did his presentation.

The next meeting will have John Birbeck, the new Environment Officer from Caloundra City Council as a guest speaker. See date claimers for details.

Bringing back the Trees - a group approach!

At the last Maleny Folk Festival the GREEN HOUSE, a forum for discussing environmental issues, was presented by the National Threatened Species Network (Thank you Jan Tilden for your tireless efforts) and the Sunshine Coast Environment Council in the conjunction with the QFF.

Amidst well-known and interesting speakers, representatives of Barung Landcare presented a workshop called "Bringing back the Trees". An introduction on the landcare initiative, the Barung Landcare Group with its issues and actions as well as a short landuse history of the Barung region (by myself). Kath Zaiko introduced five trees we selected to show their main features helping in their identification and the collection methods of their seeds. The five plants chosen were **Yellow Cedar, Macaranga, Riberry, Red Cedar and Black Bean**. Lyndon McPherson spoke on propagation of the same selected trees. Planting out and maintenance was presented by Peter van der Duys. After ten minutes of discussion the listeners were invited to a self-guided rainforest ID walk along the Obi-Obi Creek. The trees inspected had been planted two years ago in a combined venture of the Maleny Project (initiated by the Maleny Folk Federation), Barung Landcare and the help of volunteer planters made up by folk festival visitors.

Thanks to everyone who was involved - in spite of a lot of last minute decision making it showed that Barung Landcare has a good group spirit!


Jane Skrandies

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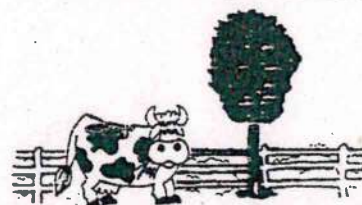
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WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

BARUNG LANDCARE

committee members

Coordinator & Treasurer - Lexy Forbes

Secretary - Gillian Ainscough

President - Jo Ferrier

Vice President - Mal Thompson

Committee Members - Jane Skrandies,
Gillian Ainscough, Bill Hall, Denise
Irons, Harold Hopper

Advisers - Ashley Sewell, Sam Brown

The Coordinator is available every
Tuesday, some Thursdays, at THE
ENTERPRISE CENTRE, 23 Coral St.
Maleny