

(7)

Aug-Sept 1992

BARUNG LANDCARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Co-ordinator - Lexy Forbes.

Secretary & Treasurer - Lexy Forbes.

President - Jo Ferrier.

Vice President - Mal Thompson.

Committee Members: Janel Skrandies, Gillian Ainscough, Bill Hall, Denise Irons.

Advisers - Ashley Sewell, Sam Brown.

The Co-ordinator is available every Tuesday, some Thursdays, at Enterprise Centre,
23 Coral St., Maleny.



'Working for our future'

Contact: Barung Landcare Association
at: The Enterprise Centre,
23 Coral St., Maleny, Qld 4552.
on Tuesdays and Thursdays
Phone: 074-943922

BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday the 12th September, 1992.

AT

Jo Ferriers Place - 10 Ash St. Maleny.

AGENDA.

1. Welcome to Members and Visitors.

2. Apologies.

3. Confirmation of Minutes.

- Annual General Meeting- 31st Sept.1991.

4. Business Arising from Minutes.

5. Reports - Co-ordinators.

- Enterprise.

- Rural.

6. Financial Report and Auditors Statement.

7. Election of Office Bearers and Management Committee.

8. Appointment of Auditor.

9. General Discussion.

10. Closure of Meeting.

Bring a plate and enjoy a shared lunch while watching your own Barungites as Super Stars in a Landcare Video which was shot up here in June.

We will have a get together over lunch followed by the meeting at 2pm.

Please come along and find out what has been going on over the last year, enjoy some friendly company and have a say.

SEE YOU THERE!!

TO NOMINATE FOR THE COMMITTEE PLEASE CALL LEXY ON TUESDAY OR THURSDAY.

Minutes Book

Keep Video Hon

Shared lunch + meeting + wine + cheese

Janel
minutes of William away

attendance page to be passed around
Introduce Management Committee. Explain that HC is broad + needs to have
or the Committee. People who can see their own part of view
but also that of wider picture - Good HC practices don't compete but complement each other
of William

next move that reports be received + adopted

- explain philosophy on intro

- explain philosophy, thank Mal + Margaret, Bill Landcare

computer report - Janel

Treasurers?

Sam

Explain we elect management committee, management committee

elects office bearers

Explain concentration of power?

broaden it out

Barry - payment

ICM

lets questions

community input

community perception of the group

Denise
nursery

Lexy

Vote of thanks for Dean

Nominate Peter Street Peter Vanderburg

Janel ??



COMING EVENTS.

- 8th August Working Bee at Nursery Site, Bicentennial Lane at 8am.
- 25th August Rural Sub-committee Meeting, Enterprise Centre at 7.30pm.
- 10th Sept. Free Rate Trees Collection Day at the Nursery Site on Bicentennial Lane, between 10.00am and 2.00pm.
- 12th Sept. A.G.M. at Jo Ferriers Place, 10 Ash St., Maleny. at 12.00 noon.
- 20th Sept. Permaculture Expo at Crystal Waters at 9.00am.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

- 18th August. Committee Meeting at the Enterprise Centre at 7.00pm.
- 22th August. Catchment Care Committee Meeting - one rep. only.
- 15th Sept. New Committees First Meeting.

COGS, GRASSROOTS AND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT *By Jo Ferrier.*

The word is out that Landcare is outdated. The new catchword to be taken up by bureaucracies at all levels is Integrated Catchment Management. (I.C.M.) Barung Landcare knows better than this, Integrated Catchment Management is another name for Landcare organised around waterways. This makes sense. We are all part of a catchment. The Land that we care for is linked by our waterways. Our affluent effluent is our neighbours drinking water.

Greening Australia wants to start a National Catchment Vegetation Management Strategy and will be having a pilot project in each state. Greening Australia, as would be expected, wishes to focus on the vegetation management aspect of Integrated Catchments. One way to get a handle on Integrated Catchment Management is to think of its opposite, which is, more or less, the current reality - Disintegrated Catchment Mismanagement (D.C.M. Ha Ha !!) or lots of individuals, landowners, community groups, governments at all levels doing their own thing without communicating with one another or thought for the complexities of the whole catchment. Integrated Catchment is a big job - a big vision. If the management of the Mary River is daunting, think of the Murray, Darling system and the mind boggles.

But one must begin somewhere - and in Qld. Greening Australia wishes to start with the Obi Obi catchment using Barung Landcare's community contacts and the Greening Australia Schools Nursery Project. This is to be A pilot project for one year and funding comes down to enough money for two days per week to co-ordinate the project.

The aim of the pilot project is to work out and record the process by which community, government and private sector support can be achieved to effectively manage the vegetation in the Obi Obi catchment. Barung wishes to promote the idea of smaller neighbourhood groups working together to take responsibility for their patch of the catchment. This process can then be shared with other groups. The question is, of course, would strategies that work in Maleny work in Western Qld?



The brochures and speakers about I.C.M. call for a grassroots approach but the potential reality is that its to be driven from the top. Greening Australia does have a genuine interest that vegetation management in our catchments must be community based and that is why they support a community group such as Barung Landcare.

Glen Thomas from Qld University of Technology has already done lots of work mapping the Obi Obi Catchment. He has given this information to Barung and this is part of the reason that Greening Australia selected the Obi catchment as a pilot project in Qld. With all this interest in I.C.M. and everyone jumping on the band wagon, the possibility exists for limited resourcing to be misspent by setting up new groups, new infrastructures rather than capitalising on the activities and groups already in place. A lot of networking needs to continue with Caloundra City Council and Maroochy Shire Council, the Waterboard and other groups who have their own projects underway in this area. A possible name for the National Catchment Management Strategy put forward by Greening Australia is COGS. standing for Corridors of Green, Catchments of Green, Communities of Green. This is a fine vision but cogs raises other images in my mind. Barung is to be a cog, the working part in a giant, bureaucratic Integrated Catchment Machine. But the whole machine fails if the cogs have no teeth. It's the little cogs working quietly away who keep the machine running and get the work done.



A good group works effectively together.

BUS TRIP TO GATTON.

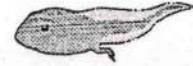
An enjoyable and informative day was had by the crew who took off over to Gatton last Friday. With Max and Trudy at the helm whatelse could be expected. They travelled around and looked at different projects lucaena and companion pasture management being a couple of them. Also cabinet timber sites were discussed and the general feeling was that we can learn alot from them and start to implement

THANKS to Libby and Marek Malter For the donation of the First Aid Kit and to Stephanie Thompson for the container.alot of these type of projects in our region.



MARY RIVER CONGRESS.

How do you gauge the success of the Mary River Congress?



By the smiles on the organisers faces at the end of the day.

By the distance travelled with participants coming from source to mouth of the Mary River and beyond to learn together and share ideas.

By the number of people present. The seats were all full and our fears were more to do with the possible inundation of hordes than too few people expressing an interest in their catchment. The participants were plentiful but not overwhelming.

By the cross section of the community in attendance. A diversity of people abounded - children, educationalists, academics, wandering wilderness lovers, farmers, geriatrics, graziers, unemployed, mountain dwellers, flood-plain fellows, bureaucrats, politicians, right-wingers, leftists, middle-of-the-roaders, townies, small lot owners, permaculturalists and landcarers. All sat together for one day with a degree of good will and open mindedness, and a tendency to begin to think about appropriate ways of managing their land within the catchment. Not too often during the day did we hear the resounding bang of minds slamming shut to new ideas. It's hard to tell. Some may have quietly tip-toed out.

By the contentment of the participants. They were well fed; (thanks to Mountain Fare and the Maleny High School tuckshop) well watered and toileted. Their bodily functions catered for, the range of workshops was wide enough to provide mental fodder for a variety of tastes. With adequate signs strategically placed our customers were able to find their way from room to room without getting lost and fretting.

By the quality of ongoing action that comes from the congress. The cry went out several times during the day "it's time to stop talking and do something".

There's a lot of action involved in a congress. Muscles and minds engaged, we put up the marquee, lugged the classroom furniture out of the venues, wrote articles promoting the congress, phoned people etcetera. To separate the thinking from the doing is a mistake. They feed off one another. It's impossible to measure the quantity of little actions that educational events like the Mary River Congress have. Even if its an explosive reaction in an individual landholder's mind set towards reviewing a particular land management practice, or a general raising of community awareness about catchment wide planning, or the first step in finding common ground between diverse community interests, then it's worth it.

But still, the point is taken, there's a lot of work to be done. Students from Maleny High School have tested the E Coli levels at Gardener's Falls and at times have found the levels to be over the accepted safe limit for swimming. They have found the E Coli levels at the swimming hole at Maleny Showgrounds to be approaching a level that is not far off being unsafe for swimming. What is clear is that our waterways need to be monitored more closely. Peter Oliver has offered to do a follow-up workshop on how to do water quality monitoring for landholders, and perhaps there is sufficient interest to establish more frequent monitoring of the Obi Obi and/or Mary River.



Landcare groups within the catchment are going to make an effort to network more with one another, but our total effectiveness depends on how well we work in our local areas.

I leave you with a story where the landcare and human elements mesh into a dilemma that faces the Mary River Catchment. I met a farmer who had 115 acres, 100 of which were in the flood zone. He makes his living from farming prime river flats and his story is magnified all along the Mary. Yet the message was clear. The 'health' of the river and the life and land around it depends to a large extent on revegetating the flood zone. There's a balance that needs to be struck between economic survival, the needs of people and sustaining the land.

How do you work out that balancing act? Well that's the tightrope that landcare walks.

Where do we go from here? The possibility exists for another Mary River Congress in the future elsewhere in the catchment to see if we're still up there on the tightrope.



NURSERY SITE.

Well, I suppose you've all noticed that the site has been dozed yet again but it looks good now. With all the topsoil donated to us from around the ridges (Thanks to Collin Cork, Don Roderick, Scott Kirby and Lindsey Follet), we should be able to bury some of those rocks instead of having to pick them all up.

We had a great couple of Working Bees putting up the security fence thanks to Barry Beale, Ken Levet, Bill Hall, The Thompson Boys - Hilton, Gary and Micheal, Lindsay Follett and Lexy Forbes.

A working bee is set down for the 8/8 at 8.am to get on with cleaning up the site and building a few gardens out the front. We've got the trench digger coming to lay all the lines and Lindsay with his trusty tractor to move some more soil around and level it all out. Mick Walsh is doing a great job organising the power and we will have the power pole connected on this day. The water is on its way when the Council puts the new main down the street sometime next week. The phone line is being layed tomorrow and its all systems go for the building of the shed.

It's up to Barry and Lexy to check out the shed designs and the next thing is construction.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE MARY RIVER CONGRESS

By Jo Ferrier

I began as a fun seeking volunteer, planting a few trees on a Sunday morning jollied along by pleasant company, spurred on by the thought of bickies at morning tea. That was my first mistake. Then came seed collecting, growing seedlings, writing articles, submissions advertising brochures, organising camps and working bees. I took the plunge. I joined the committee. It's called Death by Meetings, Bloody Meetings. An agonising way to ^{go} Nurses have enemas. Principles have canes. An Agenda is a secretary's secret weapon of war. Agendas are programmed to draw the pain out. To fit it in timed slots under set headings. Their purpose is to ensue that all directors survive battered but still alive and able to crawl into the next meeting to experience another agenda and so on, ad infinitum or, at least until the next A.G.M.

But then, IT HAPPENED - The Inaugural Mary River Congress - a great success despite its name. (A congress? In Australia ! Is this America or what?) Who would have thought it possible? Meetings where decisions were made and woebetide - Action undertaken - immediately. Not tomorrow or possibly next week - then and there

Each person on the organising sub-committee volunteered to undertake areas of responsibility and then actually did it - without being canned! There were no embarrassing silences when the question was put! " Who would like to do this? " We all worked hard. We all played our part. It worked. We were organised! No last minute chaos. Hip! Hip! Hooray! - and we did it without agendas or minutes.

Thanks to the organisers Gillian Ainscough, Lindsay Kruger, Jo Ferrier, Peter Ainscough, Peter Oliver and Stewart Sherwin.

Also to Lexy Forbes, Ann Peach, Chris Ainscough (What a family!), Mal Thompson, Bill Hall, Rob Cork and the Rural Sub-committee for their help, Trevor Angel, Wesley Pettet and everybody else Thank-you.

GENERAL MEETING.

Just a brief note about the General Meeting held at the Thompsons on the 20/6/92. A fun day was had by all, down by the lake with plenty of food and even a few fresh fish. We then enjoyed a gentle stroll through some remnant forest trying to identify some old and beautiful trees.

Even if our President took off for a ride on the horse and left us we still enjoyed ourselves. One very small fluffy puppy had a ball playing mud pies in the dam, and when the winter chill settled in as the cows came home so did we all trundle off.

GROUND RULES- LANDCARE FOR NEW FARMERS.

The video which has been taking up so much of some peoples time is now completed and I would like to Thank all the people who helped in making it all go smoothly. Especially the Thompson Family for everything they organised from tractors to chooks and pigs.

Some of us have seen a sneak preview and it seems to feature Barungites pretty heavily come along and have a giggle at the A.G.M.



RURAL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT.

Well, I feel that this is such a growth area in Barung that it must not go by without a mention. Whether its a trip to Gatton to look at pasture improvement or a trip down Bridge Creek to decide on how to tackle the Landslip Rehabilitation Project on Collin Corks place things are pretty full on.

The workshop at the Mary River Congress was extremely well received, with talk of it moving its way down the Catchment -soon.

Next week there is a women from the Uni of Qld. coming to discuss the availability of trail sites of Dairy Effluent. Hopefully we will be part of her trails in determining which trees are best used to filter this effluent.

The Queensland D.P.I. has produced a new book on equipment for micro-irrigation, which is said to reduce water consumption by up to 40%, improve crop productivity and allow more even fertiliser application. Its costs \$6.50 and is available from Q.D.P.I. Publishers. G.P.O. Box 46, Brisbane 4001. For Further Information. Contact - Tony Turner (07) 2247166.

MULCHING DAY - SHOWGROUNDS.

Thanks to all those volunteers who helped to mulch at the Showgrounds on Sunday the 28th June. There were plenty of willing helpers and the day went smoothly.

The trees at the waterhole end are looking great but the tennis court end has suffered badly from the effects of grazing cattle.

PLANNING MEETING

On the 22nd June several committee members attended a 'Planning Meeting' facilitated by Sam Brown and Pat Morrissey from Department of Primary Industries.

The general idea behind the decision to have this meeting was to:

- 1) as a committee, have an understanding of what we were working towards as a team - the common vision or as it was put on the day 'understanding the big picture'
- 2) come up with a Mission Statement. That is a short statement that encapsulates who we are and what we are doing. This helps to guide the committee and is useful when trying to make decisions or when the group is floundering.

The day was rather productive in exploring possible actions we could take to involve the community in Barung Landcare. We focused on this for quite some time and seemed to be an important issue. Interestingly, our commitment to community involvement was actioned quickly through our participation in joint organising of the Mary River Congress with Maleny High School.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Barung LandCare is working towards sustainable land management through education, planning, community involvement and positive actions.

We would appreciate some feedback on this mission statement, as it is hoped it will be adopted as the Barung LandCare statement.

of our land & water resources

