

THE BAROON POCKET CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Jo Ferrier

The public meeting to form a Baroon Pocket Catchment Care Group was held at the Community Centre on September 8th. The meeting was well attended, even though there were other meetings on in town at the same time. This meeting was a follow on from the initial workshop held at Solothum, to which representatives from various community groups, including Barung Land Care were invited to attend.

The driving force behind the formation of a Baroon Pocket Catchment Care Group has been the Caloundra-Maroochy Waterboard, so that the central concern has been the water quality of Lake Baroon. The Waterboard has hired independent consultants, Sci-Plan, to facilitate the formation of a Catchment Care Group. While there are definite advantages in having an independent group that is not part of the local government bureaucracy or politics, there are also some disadvantages. There has been a lack of knowledge about local groups already working in the area, for example Barung Landcare. Some basic knowledge of local conditions has been lacking on the part of Sci-Plan - such as, that Maleny township is within the Baroon Pocket catchment.

There was much discussion about whether Barung should consolidate its work and broaden its community input to address the catchment issues of Baroon Pocket. Several people stated that the quality of water in Baroon Pocket reflects the health of the land through which the Obi flows. Dean Cameron, Peter Oliver and myself put forward the concept of neighbourhood groups working together to take responsibility for their patch of the catchment, with Barung coordinating between groups and actively promoting and demonstrating this neighbourhood approach.

The outcome of the meeting was that a steering committee was formed to start the new Baroon Pocket Catchment Care Group with representatives from the following community groups -

Steering Committee
Maleny Society
Small Cropper
Chamber of Commerce
Q.D.O.
Soffel
Permaculture?

Bill Haagsma
John Bolten
Rob Cork
Colin Cork
Harvey Bryce

Mal Thompson is Barung's representative. Thanks Mal.

As the aim is to produce a Catchment Management Plan it is important that all community groups have input into the process. The assumption by Sci-Plan has been that if you take a list of relevant community groups who have a stakehold in the Baroon Pocket Catchment and allow each group to have a representative on the steering committee, then you will have a fair and broad cross section of the community having input into the process.

In reality this is not necessarily the case. As I see it, the challenge for the steering committee is to activate a process which will allow input from a more diverse cross section of the community than are currently on the steering committee. There was not a single woman on the committee and to me this was a glaring omission.

Whatever the outcome of the Baroon Pocket Catchment Care Group, Barung will hopefully move to instigate our vision of neighbourhood groups working together to achieve sound land management practises in our own backyards, gullies and creeks.

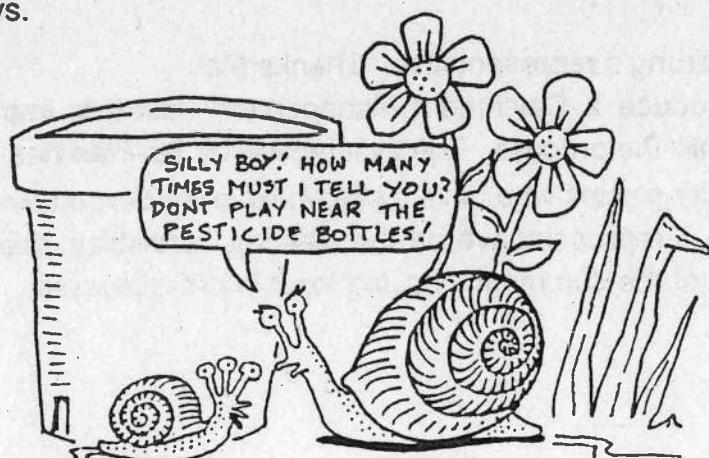


ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As befitting a landcare group the AGM was a casual get together on Jo Ferrier's verandah in Ash Street, Maleny. Verandah's are great. They provide civilised comfort and a feeling of the outdoors. They link the inside with the outside. We could reach through the window to get our coffees and bickies from the kitchen bench, but sit in the shade and view essential characteristics of Maleny's rural and urban amenity. Cows grazing on kikuyu at the back of the caravan park. The movement of camphor laurel leaves in the gentle breeze. The cleared urban watercourse on the vacant land next door. Ash Street is only 2 minutes to Nagy's (great for satisfying the late night cravings of chocaholics), yet the house backs onto a rural view. The mood was pleasant and relaxed. We consumed our shared lunch with a spirit of cooperation, a minimum of gluttony and an abundance of convivial chattering. Oh! and the meeting went well - like clockwork really.

The members were paragons of correct AGM behaviour. They laughed at the right places; had a spark of intelligence in their eyes; a kindness in their hearts towards each other, the land and the people sitting out the front doing their bit as the committee. Lexy, Mai, Rob Tapp and Denise bravely presented their reports to an audience of approximately 35. Jo kept the meeting flowing with room for members participation yet an eye on the clock. Tedium was not permitted to enter. There were no insurrections or uncontrolled clamourings from the membership to be on the committee which remains the same except that Dean decided for work and family commitments, not to stand again. He has been replaced by Harold Hopper. The reports were all interesting. The landcare video was scintillating. If you weren't able to attend, written reports and the video are available at the office in Coral Street.

See Lexy on Tuesdays.



ENTERPRISE ARM REPORT

Its a slow slog towards the road to independence.

At least we now have the trench on the Nursery Site filled in and the water available to use, the power will be on by the time this goes to print.

There is a small group of interested people keen to get on with the shed construction but the final decisions are yet to be made.

Things should really start moving from now on in. We can at least buy some potting mix and start potting up all the things that need it now its spring.

With the dozing done just the day before the Free Rate Trees Day proved to be pretty successful - thanks to Don and Scott for their efforts (colds and all).

Things are looking good for the planting season which is coming up fast just a good few inches and it'll be all systems go.

Greenhouse Effect



WATER QUALITY TESTING WORKSHOP

We are holding a water testing workshop as a follow up to The Mary River Congress. The workshop will be held at The Maleny High School on the 7th of November from 9.00am till 3.00pm and it is necessary for people to book as numbers are limited to 15.

If you wish to bring samples along and test them on the day then it will be necessary to organise to collect the sterilised jars.

The water samples need to be taken from the same body of water but in 4 different spots.

The cost of doing the tests (materials only) will be \$20.00. After doing the workshop you should feel totally capable with doing all your own tests at a later date.

The tests are

1. P.H.
2. Dissolved oxygen.
3. Phosphates.
4. Nitrates.
5. Total dissolved solids.
6. E-coli results after 24hrs.
7. Bio-chemical oxygen demand results after 5 days.

Contact Lexy on 943922 on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

NEW MEMBERS

I would like to welcome all new members and inform you that if you have any questions about Barung don't hesitate to ring up or drop in at the Enterprise Centre on any Tuesday and most Thursdays.

SCHOOLS NURSERY UPDATE.

On my last count 7 of the 8 schools in this project had their Shadehouses up and ready to go. Greening Australia provided another \$600.00 to be distributed between the 8 schools involved in this project. It was provided to allow each school to get a start up kit of pots, potting mix, fertiliser punnets and labels to get their project going.

Graeme Gibson from Greening Australia and I visited 4 of the schools - Montville, Palmwoods, Eudlo and Matthew Flinders Anglican College, to help them start their projects. We provided them with a variety of seeds and helped them to identify the project in their area which they wished to work on. It was a very interesting day to see just exactly what is going on in each school. Graeme and I hope to visit the other 4 schools before the end of the year.

Anybody who lives near any of these schools and wishes to get involved in the school project please do not hesitate to ring Barung or the individual school and offer your services.

CABINET TIMBER TRIALS ON THE RANGE



Dr. Mike Olsen from the Uni. of Qld. has been up in the Barung area looking for a trial site to do a cabinet timber plot. He wants to trial the difference between trees grown with grow tubes and trees without. Mike has already got a site at Mt. Mee and another at Canungra and he is using the information collected from these trials to determine which species would be most suitable for the Maleny/Montville trials.

We have had a look at a few different sites and seem to all be agreeable on the site at Western Ave., Montville. It is a good sloping protected site with good soil and is highly visible. We hope by making the site readily available to the public and by keeping people informed on its progress it may encourage more people/groups/ organisations to get into using trees. We hope the site will later be able to show the way in which trees can be used to :

1. Create an income in the future - cabinet timbers.
2. Create a buffer zone between different types of development.
3. Provide an effluent soak for the run-off from residential and/or commercial premises.
4. Help to create a wildlife corridor link for native birds & animals.

Barung is happy to help anybody who is interested in this sort of project and to put them in touch with the experts in this field. There is not a lot of information available on the returns from this type of project as most of the research has only been done over the last few years.

Also there is a Field Day being held at Mt. Mee to check out the Cabinet timber trial which was set up there a couple of years ago. It will be held on October the 10th at the property of D & J Pickering between 10am and 2pm.

Please ring Lexy on Tuesday as she has to let Greening Australia know the numbers of people wishing to attend.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

A suggestion has been made that we take another trip down to Jack Mitchell's Place to have a closer look at his method of Rainforest Regeneration. The people who went last time had a very enjoyable and inspirational day . Jack has a particular method of going about this process and has many plots at different stages to show you just exactly what can be achieved in a certain length of time.

Would people be interested in going down to Samford to have a look?

Please let me know if you're keen.

THE NEW YEAR

As we have just had our A.G.M. I would like to Thank everybody who has helped Barung in the slightest way over the last 12 months.



Thank you Dean for all your support and energy put into Barung.



BARUNG LANDCARE RURAL SUBCOMMITTEE

The inaugural meeting of the Rural Subcommittee was held at the Enterprise Centre on 21.1.92. Committee members were Mal Thompson (President), Rob Cork (Secretary), Lexy Forbes(Coordinator), Kay Corkin, Bill Hall and Scott Kirby.

At that meeting the committee discussed the reasons for the formation of the group and came up with the following aims:-

1. Coordinate with existing farmers groups
2. Improve the image of Landcare with Rural Landholders
3. Generate a column in the Range News to alternate with Botany Watch
4. Encourage the use of organic fertilisers
5. Provide rational economic arguments in support of products and systems
6. Analyse products- (sprays, fertilisers etc)
7. Provide a balanced argument to the community on rural affairs
8. Investigate government funding available to rural landholders
9. Include the Forest Industry matters within our charter

Since that first meeting the committee has met regularly every month and we are well on the way to achieving in part our stated aims. Activities covered by the committee during the past eight months are as follows:-

1. Attendance at field day on Bernie Von Pein's property at Dalby on organic farming techniques
2. Organised following guest speakers:-

| Name | Topic |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (i) Sam Brown | -Landcare |
| (ii) Peter Parnell | -Agricultural & Horticultural Runoff |
| (iii) Gary Dwyer | -Self-Help Property Planning |
3. Organised field inspection of properties showing the use of fodder trees in controlling weed infestations
4. Put forward a submission and obtained funding of \$2200.00 from the National Soil Conservation Program for our Bridge Creek Landslip Rehabilitation Project
5. In conjunction with the Botany Dept of (Uni of Qld) trying to organise planting of cabinet timbers in the area
6. Presented a workshop on " Pastoral Practices and Catchment Management " at the Inaugural Mary River Congress.
7. Actively trying to seek information about agricultural and horticultural runoff
8. Provide regular news brief for Range News
9. Help with Landcare exhibit at show
10. Liaise with Qld. Dairymans Organisation about forthcoming events which may be of interest to their members.

In the period of time the committee has been operational, we have witnessed a great deal of interest by rural landholders in the various subjects that we have pursued. We have had quite a few farmers attend our meetings and field trips. This augers well for the future of our committee and proof that Landcare issues cover a broad spectrum and appeal to a wide variety of people from all walks of life.

DATE CLAIMERS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- 10/10/92 Greening Australia & Uni. of Qld. Field Day at Mt Mee.
- 12/10/92 Public Meeting of formation of Baroon Pocket Catchment Care Committee at Community Hall 7.30pm
- 13/10/92 The 6 Landcare Groups in the Mary River Catchment are meeting to discuss Intregrated Catchment Management and its relationship to Landcare at Gympie Forestry at 7.30pm.
- Mid Oct. Baroon Pocket Maintaince Day - Check Range News for date and time.
- 27/10/92 Rural Sub- Comm. Meeting at 7.30 at The Enterprise Centre.
- 31/10/92 Jack Mitchell is doing a public treeplant from 7am at Lot 3 Upper Cedar Creek Road, the 'Genesis' property.
- 7/11/92 Water Quality Workshop, 9.00am - 3.00pm at Maleny High.
- 10/11/92 Committee Meeting at 7.30pm at the Enterprise Centre.
- 11/12/92 Property Planning Workshop at the Enterprise Centre.

WANTED - Volunteer with skills in promotional and publicity work. Express your creativity for a grateful community group. Phone Lexy any Tuesday - 943922

Time to Spare?



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Barung Landcare



...a growing concern.

PROPERTY PLANNING WORKSHOP

Barung has decided to go ahead with a Property Planning Workshop to be run by the D.P.I. The first workshop will be specifically dealing with Dairy Farming. It will be held on the 11th of December at the Enterprise Centre and as many people from each working unit are invited to attend to have their input into planning their property.

Please ring Lexy to register - only 8 property's per workshop.

BARUNG LANDCARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Coordinator - Lexy Forbes
Secretary & Treasurer - Lexy Forbes
President - Jo Ferrier
Vice President - Mal Thompson
Committee Members - Janel Skrandies, Gillian Ainscough, Bill Hall, Denise Irons, Harold Hopper
Advisers - Ashley Sewell, Sam Brown

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

October/November 1992

APOLOGY - Page 1 of this Newsletter shows, in the Baroon Pocket Catchment Care Group,
the name Bill Haagsma. It is actually Ben Haagsma - sorry Ben.

