

bamboo

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**Akoostik Festival
Sculpture Contest**

**Bamboo Connecting
Clamps**

**Dendrocalamus
Maroochy**



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www.bamboo.org.au

*Dendrocalamus
latiflorus* cv. 'Mei Nung'



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Inside this Issue

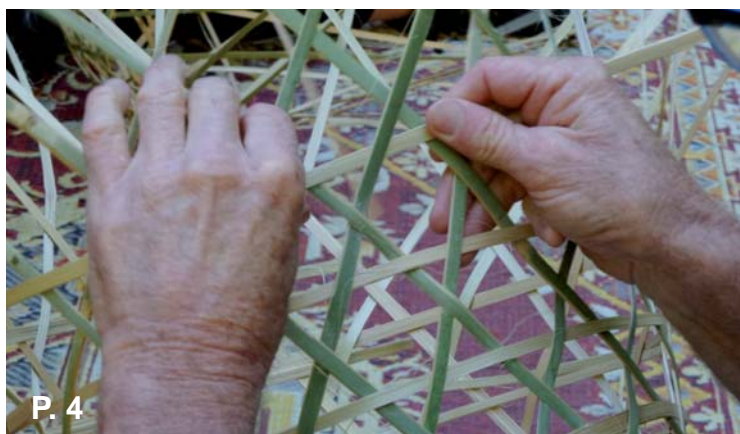
- 4 Balinese Basketry Workshops**
By Kim Tait
- 7 The Challenge of Connecting Bamboo**
By Munir Vahanvati
- 13 Himalayan Weeping Bamboo**
Drepanostachyum falcatum species report
- 15 A Bamboo Life Bamboo Sculpture Contest**
Held at the 2015 Akoostik Festival
- 20 Feature Property**
Tallawong Gardens - Now Byron Bay Bamboo
Byron Bay Bamboo
- 27 Dendrocalamus Maroochy**
Durnford Dart
- 28 10th World Bamboo Congress & World Bamboo Fair**
By Jim Mahoney
- 30 Growing Bamboo in a Forest**
By Mark McCarthy
- 31 What The??**
More strange anomalies of the bamboo world.
- 32 Bamboo: The Plant and its Uses**
Book Review by Victor Cusack

Reader Contributions

We would love to publish your bamboo experiences. If you would be interested in sharing your information on bamboo growing, managing, building or cooking, send text and attached photos to Mark McCarthy at: editor@bamboo.org.au

Front Cover Photo

Third prize winner of the Bamboo Sculpture Contest 'Eiffel Tower' by Darren Blackman.



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From the President

The 2015 AGM was held in conjunction with the Bamboo Sculpture Contest at the Akoostic Music Festival in Wingham in October.

The AGM was held on the Sunday with 20 people attending, we had three board members stand down: Barry Oconnell, Kirsten Daily and Kelly Parnham. I would like to thank them for the time and effort they put into the BSA, especially Barry who has been on the Board as secretary for many years. I would like to welcome our three new board members Shane Eder, Sandra Le Fevre and Debra King.

This year will be another exciting and busy year for the BSA:

- We are looking at holding a Bamboo Conference;
- finalising the set up of an accredited course in Bamboo Horticulture;
- working towards Australia joining Inbar which is the world organization for developing bamboo and rattan industries around the world;
- and holding Bamboo workshops throughout the year. All info will be on our web site.

We held our 2nd Bamboo Sculpture Contest with 10 quality entrants – all very different. Mark Schwartz won first prize with a spectacular suspended *Bird*. Mark Mcarthy & Helen Golden won second prize with their *Spider* and Darren Blackman won 3rd with *The Eiffel Tower* (front cover image). Three of the sculptures were sold at the event. We are now looking at holding the next Sculpture Contest at an even bigger venue.

This is an exciting time for bamboo in Australia, as we are on the verge of developing a bamboo industry here, we had three members of the Board attend the World Bamboo Conference and Expo in South Korea, which was a bit like Sydney Olympics only all about Bamboo. We are keen to get our politicians to consider what bamboo can do for the environment, the jobs it can create and the number of farmers who will benefit from growing bamboo.

By being a member of the Bamboo Society you are helping us to work towards making this happen. Thank you for your continued support.

Jim Mahoney
President BSA

*New shoot of Bambusa
pervariabilis viridi striata*
Common name: Sunburst



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From the Editor's Desk

The large amount of bamboo introduced at the end of the last century has given us an incredible selection to choose from and there is still a trickle of interesting species becoming available at specialist nurseries. These plants may have been in the country for some time but their flow from collectors to wholesale growers and eventually to the public can be slowed for a number of reasons. Some can be difficult to propagate, some don't like their roots being disturbed and are set back by dividing, sometimes it's something as simple as the specimen plant not looking its best, not attracting attention, and therefore, overlooked.

The majority of clumping bamboos are forest plants, most have the ability to adapt to a more open environment, some need protection from the hot sun. In this issue we look at one of those bamboos, an old favorite *Drepanostachyum falcatum* (Himalayan Weeping) – it can look very different depending on where it is grown.

Another factor to consider when trying to keep a plant looking its best is soil conditions, ph information is rarely available except in cases like *Shibataea kumasaca* preferring a moist acid soil or *Otatea acuminata* liking it dryer and alkaline - more on soil conditions next issue.

With many stands of bamboo now maturing and more culms available for creative work, weaving and craft workshops are becoming more popular. Recently, Weaving Connections held a basket weaving workshop at Kaye Wood's Byron Bay Bamboo property and the results are shown in this issue. More workshops are planned for the coming year, so look for any happening in your area in 2016.

At the Akoostik Festival Munir showed us the new bamboo connecting clamps he has developed, which he recently presented at the World Bamboo Congress. His paper is included on page 6.

Mark McCarthy
Editor



*Same shoot of Sunburst
six months later.*



BALINESE BASKETRY WORKSHOPS

Hosted by BYRON BAY BAMBOO

By Kim Tait

Bamboo holds a very special place in the hearts and lives of the Balinese people. At the birth of a Balinese baby, bamboo is used to create the woven offerings required to welcome the newborn in religious ceremony. The greatest and most elaborate ritual of a Balinese person's life, their cremation, depends on the use of bamboo. In fact, Bamboo is so essential to the material, spiritual and everyday lives of the Balinese that this extraordinarily useful plant is said to be like a soulmate to the people.

Nestled in the whispering groves at Byron Bay Bamboo, over two delightful weekends in April, Weaving Connections presented Balinese bamboo weaving workshops. Guest teacher Wayan Surianta, from Bali, demonstrated traditional bamboo splitting and preparation techniques used by the master weavers in his home village. Armed with a simple set of knives Wayan expertly demonstrated how to prepare the bamboo for weaving. Bambusa Gigantochloa Apus aka Tabishir, is an Indonesian variety known as string bamboo, "tying tali" (pronounced "tea-hing tah-lee" in Balinese language).

Participants in the hands-on workshops each crafted their own beautiful woven pieces to take home. The fish trap and hexagonal basket techniques taught are examples of products commonly sold in the traditional

marketplace of Wayan's home village on the remote island of Nusa Penida. Here, where master craftsmen have perfected the methods, these pieces are valued for their durability and functionality. Along the seashore the hexagonal baskets are the primary tool of trade for the Island's seaweed farmers. If you waded just past the seaweed farms to snorkel the coral reef beyond you're bound to see the split bamboo fish traps laid baited to catch someone's seafood dinner. But there is also a timeless beauty to them and, if one is inclined to see it, sacred symmetries and symbols begin to emerge from the weave.

Weaving workshops are for everyone, and it was particularly touching to have three grandmothers, their daughters and their grandchildren all in attendance. With the bamboo plinths waving gently back and forth overhead and everyone's heads bowed in concentration, absorbed in the process of creation, I could almost imagine we were back in Bali. Our most gracious host, Kaye Wood, of Byron Bay Bamboo worked her own piece of woven magic, talking (as she does) to the bamboo to help it bend. She says the trick is to handle the bamboo firmly but gently and feel the bamboo's limits with your eyes closed. We were also privileged to have President





of Bamboo Society Australia, Jim Mahoney, join us for the day. A brisk autumn morning lollid into a warm sunny afternoon as the baskets took shape and the weavers found their rhythm.

Weaving is a practice of creativity, patience and transformation. It bestows us the knowledge of generations past, dexterity of mind and improves hand-eye coordination. Weaving keeps us young. But is also a symbol of maturity. In some of the traditional communities in Bali a girl is considered a grown woman, ready for marriage and children, once she is able to complete her own woven pieces.

Tabishir or string bamboo is aptly named as it is this bamboo that my Balinese mother-in-law uses to tie the bundle of fresh young coconut leaves she carries home to make our daily offerings. The woven thatch ceiling of our traditional Balinese family home is also made from this same bamboo. Market baskets, fencing and fish traps are but a few of the other household items tumbling about our sandy yard that begin as a plant of string bamboo.

Some of these techniques are taught as part of the Weaving Connections to Bali tours. Upcoming tour dates are: January and August 2016. Weaving Connections welcomes enquiries for other dates and can customize tours for groups of four people or more.

Weaving Connections tours to Bali to the remote island of Nusa Penida, visiting traditional fishing and farming villages and learning bamboo weaving techniques

from the Island's masters. We partner with a local tour company that is a 100% locally owned, fair trade enterprise that provides real economic benefit to the local traditional weavers / seaweed farmers. By supporting the local community through sustainable tourism we hope to promote and conserve cultural heritage, knowledge and techniques. If you would like to enrich your life with authentic community engagement, fun, creativity and ancient learnings on a remote tropical island, contact Kim now, details below. ■

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The Challenge of Connecting Bamboo

Abstract

Building with bamboo is becoming very popular throughout the world with many prominent architects now using bamboo as a construction material. Bamboo architecture has taken a big leap in developing countries in recent years and has become a symbol of eco-friendly design and sustainability. Despite its increasing popularity it is still the domain of a few experienced builders who know how to build with bamboo.

At Giant Grass our focus is on the utilization of bamboo, especially as a building material. Over the past 10 years we have built various structures, conducted hands-on construction workshops and explored different connection details with bamboo. One of the key challenges with bamboo is how to connect different poles in order to create a strong structure. The hollow

cylindrical form along with varying thickness means the most common timber construction details like nails and screws are not suitable. In traditional cultures lashing and pinning was the most common form of connection. In the 20th century Simon Velez pioneered the use of steel bolts and cement, which changed how bamboo structures were built. Designers and engineers have used various other connection details like clamps, plates, hubs, etc. to create bamboo structures but there are no standard connections available in the market.

This paper outlines various bamboo connection techniques that Giant Grass has explored over the past 10 years and discusses a new system of connecting bamboo that makes it easier to build with bamboo and increase utilization of bamboo in both developing and developed countries.

Fig. 1



Red Cloud Bamboo

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Introduction

Building with bamboo is becoming very popular throughout the world with many prominent architects now using bamboo as a construction material. This is evident from design blogs and websites, which showcase an increasing number of bamboo buildings. Bamboo architecture has taken a big leap in developing countries in recent years and has become a symbol of eco-friendly design and sustainability led by buildings like the Green School in Bali (see Fig. 1 opposite).

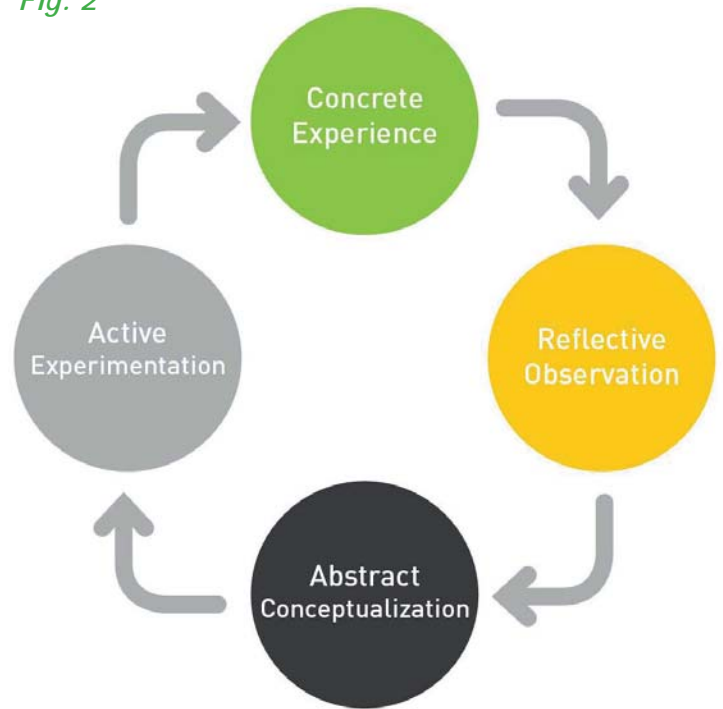
In western countries such as Australia use of bamboo is gaining popularity with greater number of household goods now made out of bamboo. Bamboo floorboards are also very popular as a sustainable alternative and are used extensively in renovations and new construction. People are getting more aware of the potential of bamboo as a sustainable material and are interested in learning and doing more with bamboo. Lack of building regulations for bamboo makes it difficult to build large buildings out of bamboo in Australia but there are plenty of opportunities to build smaller structures. Majority of the people who are interested in building with bamboo find it challenging as there are no specific joineries and systems to use and treated bamboo poles are expensive and limited in supply.

Challenges of building with bamboo in Australia

At Giant Grass our focus is on promoting the use and value addition of bamboo in construction industry. To achieve this we have used hands-on construction workshop as a model of teaching people how to build with bamboo whilst exploring new designs and connections. Over the past 10 years we have conducted various bamboo workshops with university students, tribal people, kids and community members in general. During these workshops we have used the process of experiential learning where we have tested our design, built various structures, tested connection details and used our learning for future designs (Fig. 2).

Building with bamboo is gaining popularity in Australia but there are quite a few challenges including supply and cost of raw material, lack of building regulation, lack of knowledge and skill in working with bamboo. The

Fig. 2



workshops have provided us great insight into some of the challenges in working with bamboo in Australia.

One of the key challenges that inhibit the use of bamboo is connecting bamboo poles. Bamboo has a hollow cylindrical form with varying wall thickness and taper. The fiber in bamboo runs along the length with only the nodes providing lateral strength making it susceptible to cracking under stress. The most common timber construction system details such as nails or screws increase the chance of cracking with a risk of them becoming loose. This makes such connections unsuitable for use with bamboo.

Types of bamboo connections

There are various ways of connecting bamboo. Traditionally tying with natural fiber and using bamboo pins was the most common approach. In the 20th century Simon Velez along with Marcelo Villegas pioneered the use of steel bolts and concrete, which changed how bamboo structures are built. As part of the workshops we have tried various connection details, which are discussed over the page.



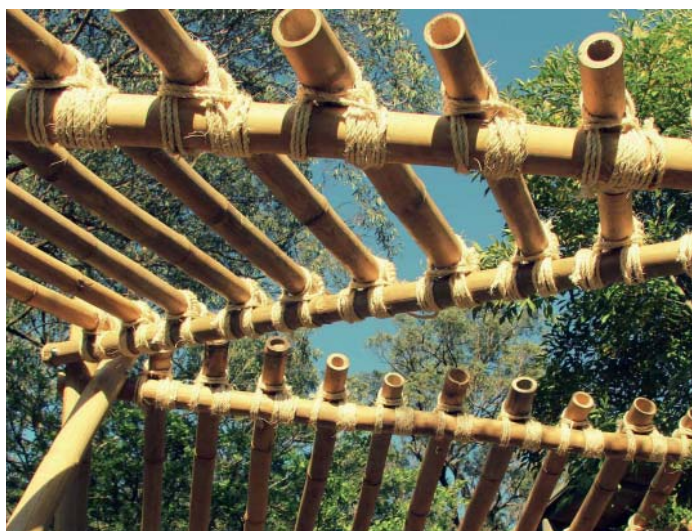


Fig. 3 ▲



Fig. 5 ▲



Fig. 4 ▲

Lashing and pinning

Traditionally lashing was the prominent form of bamboo connection. Generally natural fiber rope like sisal or palm is used for lashing but it is also possible to use polypropylene ropes (Fig. 3). There are various types of lashing knots but the most common one include square lashing, diagonal lashing and shear lashing (Fig. 4). Although it is possible to use lashing on its own many times it is used in combination with bamboo pins making the joints stronger.

Steel bolt

The bamboo poles are connected using threaded rod with nuts and washers at both ends. Use of steel bolts allows creating complex connections, which are not



Fig. 6 ▲

possible with lashing. Concrete is poured inside the bamboo internode for the joints that have high shear stress (Fig. 5)

Steel bolts make building a bamboo structure much quicker than lashing. Use of bolts requires a good understanding of structural design principles and the principle of triangulation, as each joint is a pin joint. Once the structure is built it is difficult to remove and replace poles.

Clamps

Many people have used clamps to connect bamboo and create structures. As the name suggested the connectors are in the form of a clamp that hold to the external of

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Fig. 7 ▲



Fig. 9 ▲



Fig. 8 ▲



Fig. 10 ▲

the bamboo poles. Majority of the time these clamps are custom fabricated for a particular project. We used standard fencing clamps for building a Bamboo Greenhouse as an experiment to check how difficult it would be to build with standard connector (Fig. 6).

Though clamps provide great flexibility and ease of construction, there are no clamping connectors readily available for bamboo. Standard clamping connectors for steel construction are not suitable for bamboo as it has varying diameter and taper.

Hubs

Hub connector generally consists of a central ring connector, which is connected to bamboo using a steel plate or rod. Poly pipe can be used with bamboo to create a hub connector, which is bolted in the middle (Fig. 7). Hub connectors can also be combined with clamps as we did in the Bamboo Greenhouse (Fig. 8).

Hub connectors are generally used to join many pieces of bamboo in the middle. These type of connectors are useful to create geodesic dome or other geometric forms. These connectors are generally custom fabricated for specific projects and are not readily available.

Brackets and plates

Brackets or plates are used to connect the bamboo in the same plane and useful to build trusses or other similar structural elements. Brackets are generally L-shaped pieces made out of steel and bolted to bamboo to create 90o connections (Fig. 9). Plates can be made from steel or plywood and are used to connect various bamboo poles using bolts (Fig. 10)

It is difficult to find steel brackets or plates for use with bamboo; generally they need to be custom fabricated. They are generally useful for some structural components but mainly in 2 dimensional planes.



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The Bamboo Clamp Connector

The Bamboo Clamp Connector is designed to make building with bamboo easier and faster. It uses the best aspects from various types of connections discussed above. The connector is designed for small to medium sized structures and mainly for Do It Yourself (DIY) use.

The connector uses a clamp effect to connect bamboo. The clamp is made of four prongs making it suitable to be used with different sized bamboo and overcome the issue of non-standard diameter and taper.

The design has been developed after extensive prototyping of various options. The final design is a balance of functionality and weight creating a joint that is flexible and suitable for most options (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11 ▲

Components

The connector includes various components that make it modular and flexible. All these components combine to create various design opportunities that are illustrated in the next section.

Clamp

Clamp is the main component that is fixed at the ends of the bamboo pole. The clamp includes four prongs that attach to the bamboo pole and are tightened by a cone shaped cup. These clamps are then connected to a central ring (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12 ▲

Ring

The ring is a curved edge and has vertical slots to connect the clamps. The curved surface provides maximum flexibility so that bamboo poles can be connected at different angles. The ring comes with various options including 5, 6 and 8 slots (Fig. 13).

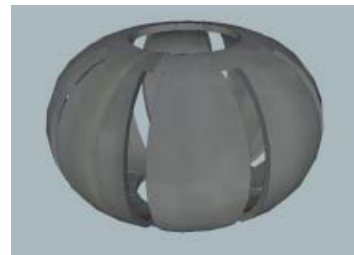


Fig. 13 ▼

Circular disk

The circular disk attaches to the ring allowing bamboo poles to be connected perpendicular to the ring. This increases the possibility of the type of structures that can be built with the connection and allows for the construction of standard post beam type of structures (Fig. 14).

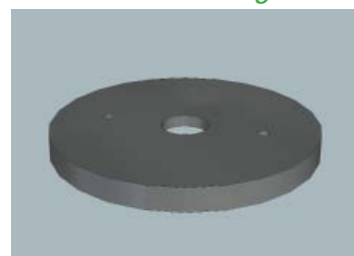


Fig. 14 ▼

Footing plate

A variation of the central ring the footing plate allows for the structure to be fixed to the ground temporarily or permanently using pegs or bolts (Fig. 15).

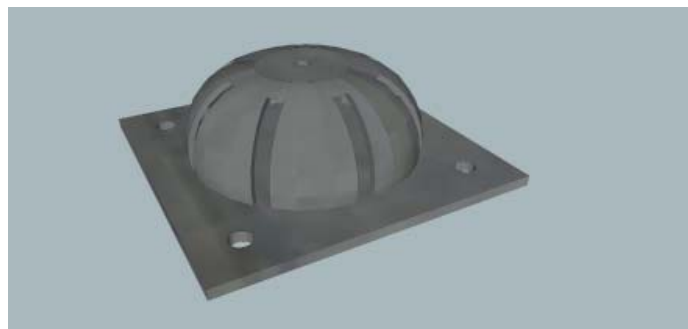


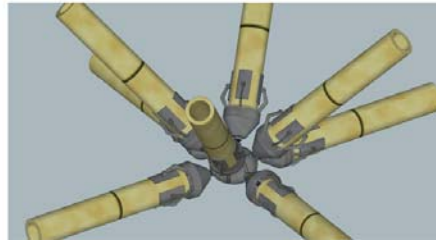
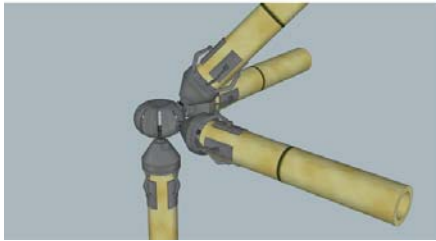
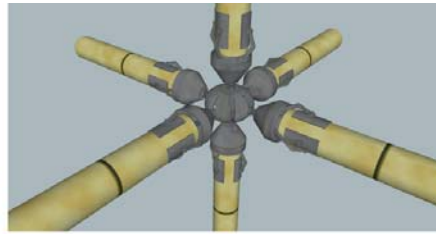
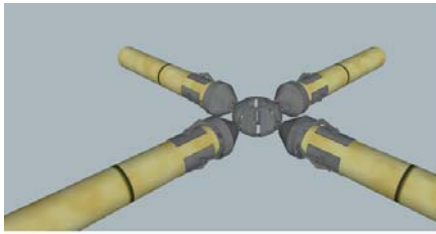
Fig. 15 ▲

Design opportunities

The modular and flexible nature of the Bamboo Clamp Connector provides various design opportunities. The components can be connected in different combinations to create a variety of joints (Fig. 16).

The connection system makes it very easy to build simple geometric structures like a square gazebo (Fig. 17). The framing can then be covered with different roofing materials of temporary or permanent nature.





▲ Fig. 16

The range of connections opens up possibilities to design and built various geometric structures like geodesic domes, vaults, space frames, gazebos, etc.

Conclusion

The Bamboo Clamp Connector is designed for DIY market making it easier for everyone to build small to medium sized structures with bamboo. It overcomes some of the key issues related to connecting bamboo and will make bamboo construction available to more people. The modular aspect of the connector makes it a versatile joint that is suitable for many occasions.

At this stage a prototype of the connector has been built and more pieces are in production. The next stage of the design development would be to build various structures using the connections and carry out required structural engineering tests.



Fig. 17 ▲

Key benefits

The connector has various advantages over traditionally used connection systems. Some of the key benefits of the connector include:

- Easy and quick to construct using just a spanner or a socket set. No special tools or process is required to construct the structure.
- Accommodates the inconsistency of bamboo diameter and taper. Works with any type of bamboo.
- Flexible design allowing various configurations and possibilities
- The clamp is made of steel and can be re-used when required. And if not required it can be easily recycled.
- No holes required in bamboo retaining the integrity of the pole. Even if the bamboo cracks the clamping mechanism keeps the pole together retaining the strength of the pole.
- Easy to replace bamboo poles without affecting the entire structure if poles are damaged and need replacement.
- The smaller size of connection is easy to transport and promotes the use of locally sourced bamboo. This makes the system a sustainable alternative rather than transporting entire kits.

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Growers of Quality Bamboo

Drepanostachyum falcatum

Common name:
Himalayan Weeping

Origin: Himalayan Mountains
Average height: 3m

Culm Diameter: 12mm
Minimum temperature: -3c

Found between 1000-2200m in the dry semi-tropical forests of the Himalayas this temperature sensitive bamboo looks its best when grown in a shady spot, protected from the hot sun.

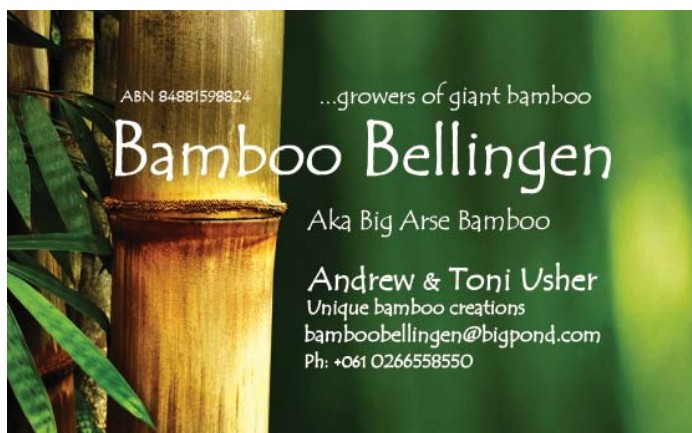
The slender culms have 50 or more branches from each node. The culms, heavy with leaf, cascade from a tight clumping base, often becoming wider than they are high.

In its natural environment it is heavily grazed by deer and would never reach the size shown here.





*New shoots with purple culm sheaths ►
more photographs next page*



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Himalayan Weeping grown in the shade (top) and in full sun (above).

*Reference:
Meredith, Ted Jordan, *Bamboo For Gardens*, Timber Press, 2001, p286.*

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a bamboo life

Bamboo Sculpture Contest and Exhibition

By Kaye Wood. Photos by Mark McCarthy & Munir Vahanvati

Last years Sculpture contest was our first ever – this year we had experience under our belt.

I took off early on the Thursday morning – car parked to the hilt with bamboo, saws and publicity material. We had 150 poles to bring down for the show to offer to Akoostik for a display which Thomas kindly loaded on his trailer along with Reobar plus two large yurts.

We had ten entries registered prior to the show – feeling tired, scared and excited all at the same time; on my journey down to Taree one of the exhibitors texted to withdraw. I had a missed call from another – oh dear – fingers were tightly crossed that I didn't arrive to find nothing but a couple of piles of bamboo sticks and the odd flagpole to make a show out of !!

I had a photo of two works which were good, but was unsure of the others – so with trepidation I found my way to Taree.

Once I saw Mark at the site I realised all would be well, four entries were already up and he was busy setting up our 'camp site' for the weekend. Along with a comfy sofa and chairs and cooking equipment. He had thought of everything. Jim was organising collecting people from airports – the bamboo buzz had begun.







Top left: Winning sculpture by Mark Schwartz.

Bottom left: Peoples Choice Winner by Mark McCarthy.

Above: Shane Eder and Thomas Lindley preparing splits.

Right: Second Place Winner by Mark McCarthy & Helen Golden.

Far right: 'Windmill' by Jake Keys.

Below: Munir Vahanvati running a sculpture-building workshop.



The Board and exhibitors arrived in Wingham to wonderful weather and commenced setting up the exhibits. Wingham is twenty minutes west of Taree. A delightful little town.

On Friday it all started to come together – everyone was there – with Munir the last to arrive from Melbourne later that night.

Our site was extremely hot and we needed to set up this show and would get our Yurt kindly donated by Donny – up without him there! Bamboo people being pretty nifty and without too many audible swear words it did finally happen.

At lunchtime, Channel 7 and NBN9 came and filmed the exhibits, and interviewed our President. TV footage appeared that evening but unfortunately most of us missed it as we were enjoying a social time in our Festival Tent which was without a TV! Thanks Jim for organising this great publicity.

The show was Judged by Jane Hosking (Director Manning Valley Art Gallery) on Saturday morning. Most people were totally in agreement with the winners!

With 1st place and \$2500 prize money going to the very talented Mark Swartz with his work 'Sails, Fins & Feathers'.

2nd Prize \$1500 went to a very deserving Mark McCarthy & Helen Golden with 'Arachnid' – a spectacular P. Nigra spider who greeted everyone as they entered the Festival and placed second behind the 'bird'.



Above: In the jaws of Jim Mahoney's 'Dragon'.

Below: Bamboo Society Board Members L to R - Peter Driscoll Treasurer, Barry (BOC) O'Connell retiring Secretary, Kaye Wood Event Organiser, Mark McCarthy Editor, Thomas Lindley new Secretary, Shane Eder .webmaster and Jim Mahoney President.

3rd prize \$500 to local Darren Blackman with his brilliant 'Eiffel Tower'.

The Public voted and Peoples' Choice went to Mark McCarthy with 'Bottom of the Garden' – a beautiful garden seat with a handmade 'leaf' Roof.

Many people came, exclaimed – sat and admired this work... we were surprised it wasn't – Sure it will be soon!

Along with the winning bamboo sculptures were also the others such as 'Dragon' a large scale piece made from splits by Jim Mahoney, which after a couple of



refreshments we were talking about turning into a 'Burning Man Festival' finale and fire it up.

Young Jake Mahoney produced a very nice exhibit which was also well received called 'Flower'. Sadly they didn't take home a prize - just their works.

Our team sold Raffle tickets and encouraged the festival crowd to join the Bamboo Society. We had displays by Logan Leigh Bench-tops and an action packed workshop run by Munir of Giant Grass where he and his group made a sculpture basically within an hour.

Our new Board member; Shane Eder from Bamboo Australia and Thomas Lindley spent much time displaying their skills trying to construct a Helicopter from Bamboo which attracted much attention - but not enough propellarisation to get it to fly!

Peter Driscoll did an amazing job of keeping his eye on the money (as he always does) along with the elustrious Barry O'Connell, standing in the hot sun encouraging Festival attendees to view the bamboo sculptures and vote plus buy raffle tickets!

During all this people flowed thru to the Festival on another extremely warm Spring day and we had the various bands playing in the background. Not a bad gig...art, music, warm weather, nice food - pleasant company, topped off by lots of 'bamboo talk'!

Sunday was our AGM followed by a field trip to Mark McCarthy's property with many AGM members attending to view the wonderful groves of bamboo planted at Failford south of Taree - a walk and talk with Mark was most appreciated.

Then back to the show to award the prizes to our deserving winners - presented by Taree personality Tim Frazier.

The raffle and lucky Peoples Choice voter prize were also drawn.

1st prize in the bamboo hamper Raffle was won by Rod Willis, (Value \$1000 donated by Cutloose Nursery)

2nd prize bamboo personal care pack value \$250 to Karen Simpson (prize donated by Cutloose & Byron Bay Bamboo,).

The Voters Choice voter prize went to Mary Radiche. \$220 value. Donated by Natures Green Nursery - Taree, Gnomes landscaping, Giant Grass, Bamboo Australia.

Monetary Prizes for competition winners were sponsored by Akoostik Festival, Logan Leigh Benchtops, Byron Bay Bamboo & Bamboo Creations NSW, Yurts donated by Bambooyurts.com.au.

Three exhibitors sold their works - 'Eiffel Tower' by Darren Blackman (a first time bamboo sculptor), I observed many people having photos taken in front of this exhibit - it was Manning Valley, not Paris, but the idea of a picture in front of this iconic building inspired the crowds!

'Bamboo Serenity' a late entry by Bob Ramage - consisting of running bamboo - something the exhibitor told me he absolutely hates - nevertheless a lot of love went into his nice bamboo water feature - pleasing the public and scoring high in the Peoples Choice Award.

Akoostik Festival purchased the 'Windmill' by Jake Keys. A first time entry from a capable youngman. All three exhibitors were delighted with the show and selling their bamboo works.

Our first prize winner Mark Swartz "Sails, Fins & Feathers" - who was the first entry received this year - was over the moon. Our featured Artist lives in Sydney - encouraged to enter by Kenny and Will from *Lucid Space Design* - third prize winners last year. His delicate treatment of bamboo and wire to form a stunning bird creature captured many peoples imagination. At night it really came to life. It wasn't sold but we were proud to have an exhibit with a price tag of over \$3000.

2014 - 2nd prize winner Jason Cocks also exhibited - we thank him for his contribution which was a large scale work, with Jasons' very highly technical construction ability - he is very welcome at any BSA event.

All the works were of a high standard this year and we do hope this competition has inspired others to work with bamboo.

We thank all the artists for exhibiting their unique works and being part of encouraging the use of bamboo as an art form and also a construction material.

The Wingham Akoostik Festival saw double the number of ticket sales this year and was a successful event. They were such a nice group we left out bamboo poles as a donation!

Donna, the organiser was delighted to have the BSA contest as part of their Festival. She remarked that they had heard many wonderful comments regarding our show. They would be pleased to have us again.

A great weekend - thanks to everyone for their help to make this a success.



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Feature Property Tallawong Gardens - Now Byron Bay Bamboo

Tallawong Garden Nurseries (now Byron Bay Bamboo) started in 2004 as a cottage business is situated on 21 acres just 10 minutes north of Byron Bay. Nearly 100 years old the property had been a Banana farm, then a fruit tree farm growing Lychees, mandarins and other tropical fruits. The name *Tallawong* we believe is aboriginal for “Place of Birds”. It’s a haven still to so many varieties of parrots, kookaburras, and little wrens ...plus a range of rare plants.

John & Lyn McLaren bought the property around 1980 when it was fairly barren, with such lush volcanic soil and good water supply they decided to heavily plant the *Tallawong* to be their private escape. Having a seed license they travelled to Asia and bought back as many rare and interesting specimens as they could fit in their luggage.

They spent 18 years turning their home in to a wildlife sanctuary.

Bambusa eutuldoides var. *viridi* ►
vittata - China Gold



John was very interested in bamboo and purchased plants from Alstonville and the Sunshine Coast. He had the idea of one day using the resource for timber. Lyn was a wildlife carer and rescued many animals.

Along with bamboo, there are over 1200 botanical species including natives such as the local Coolamon Tree, and exotics like Burmese Teak, Sumatra, New Guinea and Thai-River Fig trees, the most spectacular being the 250 year old Moreton Bay Fig plus an rainforest area including rare palms, natives; tallwood, tuckeroos, eucalptus the list goes on which are inhabited by fruit bats, possums, and koalas. Bamboo blending beautifully with all the other plantings.

In 2002 they decided their dream needed revising and some downsizing was required. After years of hardwork, they sold the their beloved but a little run down *Tallawong* to Kaye Wood from Sydney who had never lived on a rural property, on the condition she didn't chop down the trees or take it back to a livestock farm which it once had been. They couldn't bear the thought that the many native animals would be homeless.

Gigantachloa marga - Tiger Stripe bamboo
growing tall and straight under the canopy.
This bamboo when grown in full sun will grow
shorter and bushier.





◀ *Bambusa dolichomerithalla* - Blue

▼ Below: Listed as *B. tewanton*, but fine white stripes on new shoots showed it to be a form of *B. tuldooides*. Though the wide-angle lens magnifies to a point, the rich volcanic soil here makes everything grow huge.



Kaye has been living and working with bamboo for ten years. She will tell you sometimes its been hard, a struggle and also expensive to maintain.

The previous owners John & Lyn visited three years ago and were delighted to see how the place has been developed. "Its exactly how we imagined it could be"

exclaimed John with tears in his eyes. Lyn was thrilled to still see and hear her beloved birds in the trees.

Over time Kaye has planted more than 70 bamboo varieties and is harvesting many of the timber species for the pole market.





Above: Forest path lined with Calathea groundcover and Thyrsostachys siamensis on the right and beyond that a patch of Indocalamus tessellatus, a slow growing running bamboo which likes a shady, moist environment. It has the largest leaf of any temperate climate bamboo. Seen close-up on right

Opposite: The tight clumping Thyrsostachys siamensis adds perspective on a narrow drive.



From her small boutique style nursery she recommends, sells and consults on the use of non-invasive clumping bamboo to people around Australia. Some visitors comment it must be the best place in the world to work – Nirvana!.

Kaye also has an internet business and sends plants and poles everywhere and anywhere Fastway Couriers can take them.

Along with a keen interest in a multitude of clumping bamboo plants, her passion is now poles – ‘Bamboo Timber’ for craft/DIY projects, construction – with a view to a future bamboo industry in Australia. After the successful *Freemite* workshop in January Kaye intends to do more events, inviting people into her unique world and helping to teach them more about this amazing plant.



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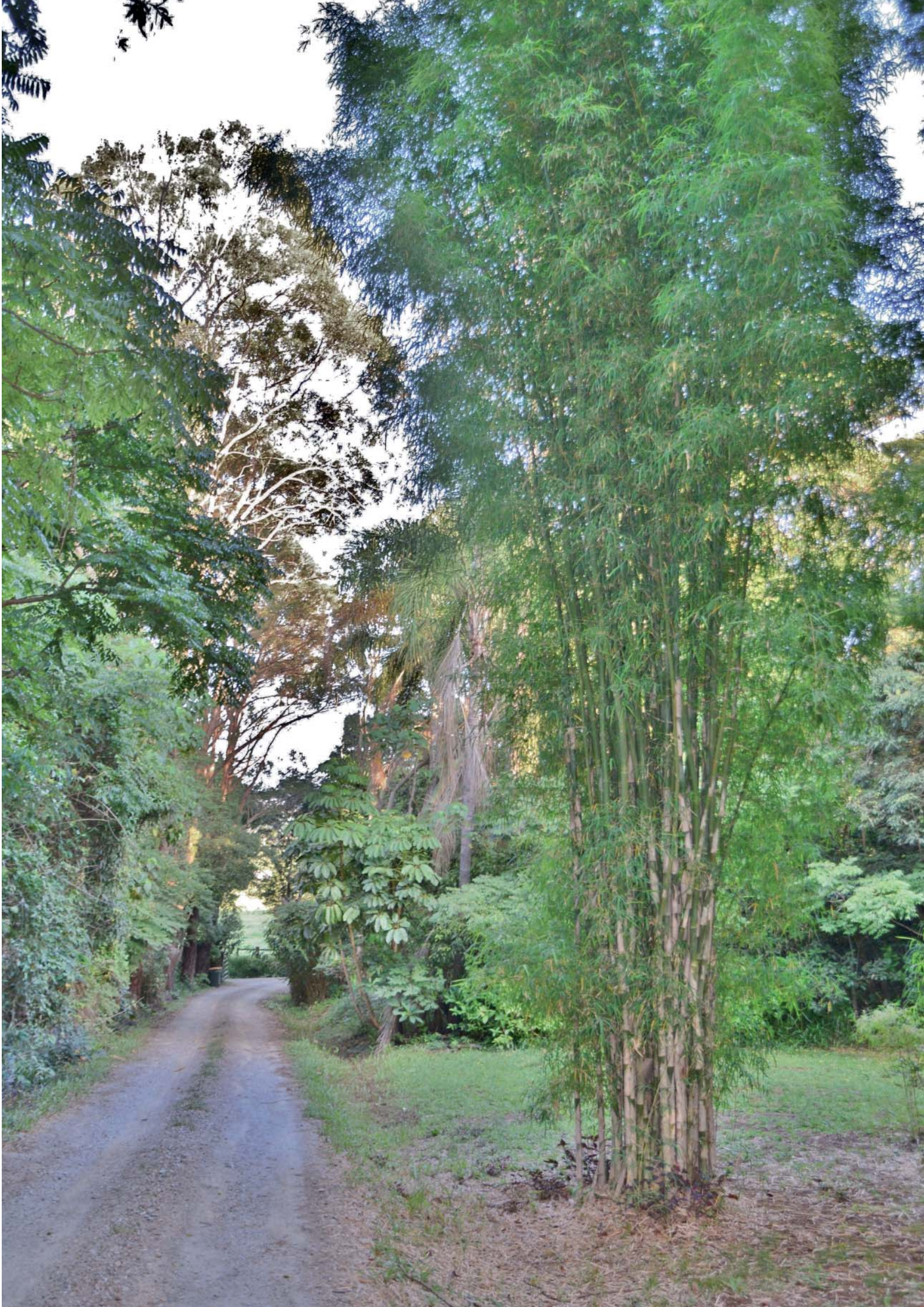
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Dendrocalamus Maroochy

Reprinted from Bamboo Society Newsletter April 2002
By Durnford Dart, Len Muller, Rick Warwick, John O'Hare and Jason Bebendorf

Photos by Mark McCarthy

When Durnford Dart of Bamboo Australia attended the IV Bamboo International Workshop in Changmai, Thailand in 1991, he was given seeds from a recently flowering *Dendrocalamus brandisii*, amongst the seedlings was something special. Below is an excerpt from his article from the BSA Newsletter.

One of these grew up to be a beautiful bamboo with culms striped with bright yellow and green. At first it was thought to be a striped cultivar of *D. brandisii*, but as it grew up it became apparent on closer examination, to have features that would not fit in the taxon *D. brandisii*: it has light brown fur on the lower nodes of culms and its culm sheath had an erect blade, whereas *D. brandisii* has white fur on the culms and its culm sheath has a reflexed blade.

Most bambuseros now know that planting seeds of bamboos can yield many surprises. Seeds of *Dendrocalamus asper* from Thailand as well as *Bambusa membranacea* gave us a variable lot of seedling types that suggest that the parent plants had been cross-pollinated or were F1 hybrids. Either way, some aberrant seedlings occur. The problem with aberrant seedlings that don't fit into the parent's taxon, is what to call them. It is seldom

apparent which bamboo donated the pollen; even the pollinations process in bamboo is not understood. Possibly the safest and simplest way is to use the seed parent's genus in the name (in Durnford's case, *Dendrocalamus*), and then give it a special name of the originator's choosing. Durnford has chosen "Maroochy" as the name of this bamboo as a tribute to the beautiful holiday and tourist destination, Maroochy Shire, in which Bamboo Australia is situated. The full name of the new bamboo thus becomes *Dendrocalamus Maroochy*.

Description: *Dendrocalamus Maroochy* may have culms up to 20m long, with pendulous tips and with diameters of up to 15cm at the base. Internode length at midculm is about 40cm, with wall thickness of 1-1.5cm. The basal part of the culms is covered with brown fuzzy non-detaching as well as detaching hairs. Culms may be green striped with bright yellow or green with no stripes, and there seems to be no regular pattern distribution of plain green and striped culms. The culm sheaths have an erect blade and small auricles about 1.5cm high without bristles. They are sometimes rolled. Ligules are denticulate and 2-3mm high. The body of the sheath is covered with light brown detaching irritant hairs. ■







10th World Bamboo Congress & World Bamboo Fair

By Jim Mahoney

Damyang South Korea

This is the third world congress that we have had board members attend to promote Australia as a future Bamboo producer. The other two were in Thailand and Vietnam. All up, there is usually between 10-20 Australians attending each event

The World Bamboo Congress was held in conjunction with Damyang World Bamboo Fair

The opening of the Bamboo Fair was incredible, I heard many comments comparing it to the opening of the Olympics, all the main streets were closed for the month with thousands of black ceramic pots full of Bamboo lining every street. And the Bamboo sculpture at the entrance was amazing.

Damyang has a Bamboo history that goes back over 1000 years and with the vision of the Governor of Damyang Choi Hyungsik to create a new Bamboo economy based on innovations from young companies from various fields of manufacturing -furniture design, soap, charcoal, bicycles, tea and many more products. The governor invited companies from around the world to display their wares, including Munir and Mittul Vahanvati owners of Giant Grass in Melbourne, they had their Froude Pod upmarket tent, Bamboo Toy range and new Bamboo clamps on display. Thomas Lindley and myself were lucky enough to be invited to help with their display and promote Australia as a future Bamboo producer.

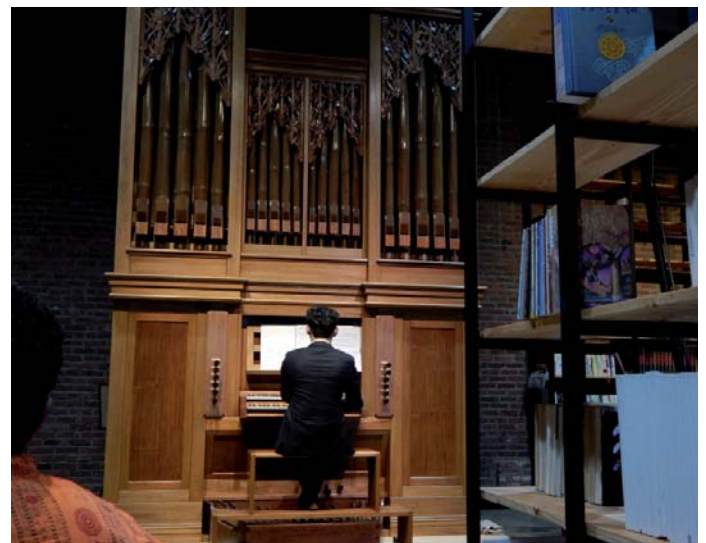
Globally in the last three decades, Bamboo has made a giant step forward through multiple transformations and applications. From traditional uses in rural areas of Asia, South Asia, Central and South America and across Africa, Bamboo has become a material of choice for innovative products, including Flooring, Housewares, Furniture, Housing, Industrial Buildings, Bridges, Fuel,

Pulp for Paper and Textile to advanced Technology Fibres. Bamboo is becoming the green invader of the modern world.

The 10th World Bamboo Congress which was held over 4 days, had many great speakers all promoting the above industries and concern about climate change, with the conclusion that Bamboo will be an important part of a Greener Future, the use of Bamboo will draw new ways to improve the Global environment and help reduce the threat of climate change, Bamboo will give us a new, fresh perspective.

A major outcome for Australia to come from the World Congress is we are now looking at the possibility of holding a Bamboo Congress in Australia on a smaller scale in 2 years, we will need help from the Government to make this happen, if we can make this happen it will be a huge move forward for an Australian Bamboo Industry. ■

▼ *Bamboo Pipe Organ*



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Growing Bamboo in a Forest

Bamboos grow very well in a forest environment, their shallow root systems benefit from the shade and the leaf litter stops them drying out. Some members of the *Schizostachyum* family, *S. brachycladum* and *S. glaucifolium* require protection from the hot sun until established. Mountain bamboos, *Himalayacalamus* and *Drepanostachyum* and the new-world *Chusquea* will also do well in a shady habitat.

Growth habits of other species change dramatically under a canopy, culms will grow taller and straighter, an advantage if you plan to use your bamboo for craft or construction.

As we try to grow tropical bamboos further south, we start to run into problems with their cold tolerance. They might do well for a couple of years, then a cold event, with big frosts will kill them back to the ground. Growing them amongst trees can help with the fluctuations in temperature and protect them from frosts.

Reference:

Bamboo World, Victor Cusack, Kangaroo Press 1999

Above: Eucalypt trees are deep-rooted, allowing shallow-rooted bamboos to establish in the leaf litter, protected from the hot sun.

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What The...?

This page is for any strange anomalies that occur in your bamboo.

The zig-zag pattern of nodes is more common in some running species like *Phyllostachys aurea*, but occasionally this is found in clumping varieties. This one was in a clump of *Gigantochloa levis*.



Helen Golden noticed the black stripes on these culms of a *Dendrocalamus asper* cv *Hitam*. The culm in the background has the typical formation of black markings, but the solid black stripe is unusual. This could be stress related as it is growing in very harsh soil.



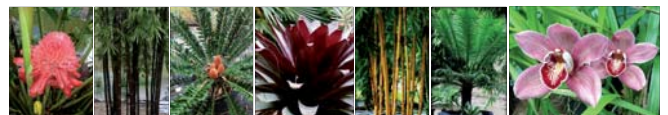
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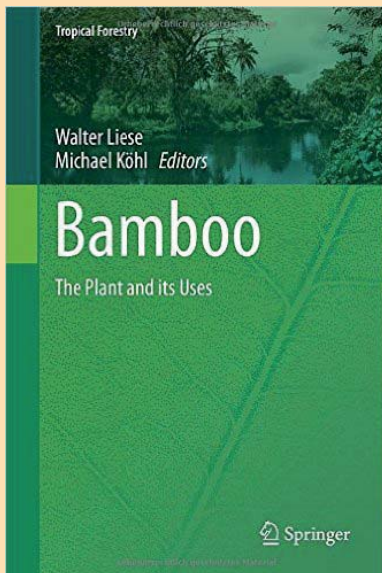
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Book Review by Victor Cusack

Bamboo ***The Plant and its Uses***

What more would one expect but such a book when assembled with major contributions from Dr Walter Liese, Professor Emeritus of Hamburg University, better considered as today's "father of bamboo", ably backed by Dr Michael Köhl's thorough editing knowledge. Presented as practical solid information written and edited in the scientific way of professionals, it is fully referenced, and assembles a wide range of generally available bamboo knowledge supported by mostly well known scientists from the field. Also understandable to everyday enthusiasts, it covers useful statistics on growth and productivity, use and harvesting, silviculture, anatomical structure, properties and treatment. We are lucky to have this late book contribution from Prof Köhl, and Prof. Liese, now aged but certainly the foremost researcher in such fields. Thoroughly recommended (hopefully with its one graph colour glitch misdefining *Guadua*, South America's wonderfully useful main species, as monopodial instead of sympodial or modified caespitose, corrected in the next reprint).

Victor Cusack - (Author of "*Bamboo World*" (Kangaroo Press/S&S, Aust 1999 & S&S, USA - now author published in 2010)).



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