



**MEN OF THE TREES**

# TWAHAMWE

The official publication of THE MEN OF THE TREES Inc., Queensland Branch

Patron: The Prince of Wales

Founder: The late Dr. Richard St Barba Baker O.B.E.

**TWAHAMWE IS SWAHILI FOR ALL TOGETHER or PULL TOGETHER**

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April 2011

## AN INSIGHT INTO SUSTAINABILITY.

Nathan campus of Griffith University sits appealingly (and in an environmentally friendly way) within about a quarter of the thousand acres of the Toohey Forest, an island in suburbia, just south of Tarragindi; not so much 'ivy' league as eucalyptus. MOTT member, architect and environmentalist Neil Thyer arranged for MOTT to visit the EcoCentre there and to have a look at this unique university campus.



Our morning began in the campus's EcoCentre, in a large meeting room that overlooks the forest outside; it has natural light and recycled carpet and the room is air conditioned with a most effective, energy-efficient air conditioning system.



We were greeted with morning tea and then Neil, who was involved with the campus from 1972 until 2009 and who, with Roger Johnson, had conceived its layout, gave us an overview of its planning process, what they were hoping to achieve and the process of building there whilst maintaining the integrity of the surrounding forest, its flora and fauna; the campus has been laid out to have as little impact on the surrounding forest as possible.



Before building, rocks, topsoil and plants were removed and stored and trees were protected during the construction process. After building, anything that could be restored to its position was replaced so that, rather than lawns and gardens that require maintenance, open areas between the buildings were reverted to their natural state, which may give the added bonus of encouragement to any of the students who are doing the Environmental Science degree there, a degree that this university was the first to offer.

We were then addressed by Delwyn Langdon, the manager of the EcoCentre who gave us some insight into the history of the building and its purpose.

Built at a cost of \$1.9 million, completed in 2000 and opened in 2001, the EcoCentre's construction and operation followed strict 'eco-design' principles, using solar energy, ambient ventilation and lighting, rammed earth walls for temperature regulation, rainwater collection for 'greywater' use and wet composting toilets. Its main purpose is to demonstrate options for sustainability. The EcoCentre is a registered school, with a principal, and welcomes groups of school children who use the various parts of the building to complete environment projects.





The EcoCentre's self-sustained mobile workshop

The EcoCentre may also be hired for exhibitions, conferences, meetings, training seminars and other functions and it presents various environment forums on a regular basis. These are free to attend and you can find details of upcoming forums on their website: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/ecocentre> under *News And Events* The next forum will be *SEQ food supply - making it sustainable*; it will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

With the melting glaciers and polar ice caps cooling the Gulf Stream, the west coast of Northern Europe and the east coast of North America are now experiencing extreme cold conditions; it is high time that people stopped denying climate change. Let's hope that more initiatives like Nathan campus and the EcoCentre are established.

Our thanks to Neil Thyer, and to Delwyn Langdon for the EcoCentre's contribution to a most interesting morning.

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MOTT Qld Inc acknowledges the support of the Queensland Government through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.



## A GRAND CHRISTMAS FOR THE IRISH.

On Sunday 5th December last, several MOTT planters attended a Christmas Concert at the Irish Club, which starred fellow MOTT member Pat Peek, who is also a member of the Tara Singers.

The Concert was entitled *The Tara Singers Herald Christmas* and it was enjoyed immensely by those members of MOTT who attended.

Erika Jakeman arranged for some MOTT members to attend the Kelvin Grove Wind Orchestra's *Fantasy Myth & Legend* concert at the Old Museum, which was very much appreciated.

Miriam Elkin.



Patrick at his peak.

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## ARANA HILLS PRESENTATION

Speaking of Patrick Peek, he will be giving a presentation on MOTT's work at 7.00pm on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Arana Hills library, Ferny Hills.

Pat will give an account of the history of MOTT and the work with which we have been involved in the Pine Rivers District.

This will be the first of several planned presentations to spread the Word of MOTT. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Robert De Lasala, along with Suzanne Mustard and family, are doing the display/information stall at the Hillbrook Anglican school (see article below).

Thanks to all of them for 'doing that little extra' in order to promote MOTT. Thanks too for the input from Marion and Scott in helping with preparations. We have a great team, eh?

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## PLANTING DEDICATIONS

This year, one MOTT planting each month is being dedicated to an individual who, it is felt, has, either now or in the past, made an outstanding contribution to MOTT in one way or another.

January's planting was dedicated to **Laser Revive** in Arana Hills where Jan McConnell works with her husband Bill and their daughter Aislinn, a student of graphic arts. As a team, they do what they can to help anyone who walks in the door.

In a way, the Laser Revive's thinking is somewhat like ours in that they believe in rebuilding and recycling in business

to ensure that as little waste as possible is taken to the tip. Over the years they have endeavoured to encompass environmentally friendly values, products & services, their motto being 'Reuse is the better way to Recycle'.

Jan has been especially kind to us over the years and has taught several of us a great deal.



Where she can, she lowers the prices of recycled cartridges for us and often gives us printing supplies free of charge.

Although printing is not their business, Laser Revive made a couple of hundred copies of our poster in colour for us at no charge. More recently, Aislinn and our artist, Scott, discussed the producing of labels for the potted plants we are growing for flood victims' backyards. Aislinn worked it out and made about 150 stickers with the MOTT logo on it with waterproof paper and coloured ink once again, free of charge.

We are happy to express our thanks to these people who treat their customers so well, and always with a smile on their faces. We hope that they can join us to plant one day, but if not, then, to visit their sites.

We dedicated our February plantings to **Barbara Wintringham** who has been associated with several environmental organizations for many years and has been a member of MOTT since 1993.



After hearing a talk by Ngairretta Brennan to the guides at Mt. Coot-tha Gardens, Barbara became one of the coordinators at the MOTT nursery. She has also helped to plant and maintain trees at our site at the Kenmore Anglican Church. More recently, she has encouraged and helped us financially in our efforts to

buy our utility vehicle. If that wasn't enough, she saves a few dollars every pension day so we can afford the maintenance of the ute. What a woman! We are all so grateful to her.

Barbara has worked as a guide and information person at Mount Coot-tha Gardens for 20 years. In addition, she writes articles and submits her botanical drawings for *Brisbane Botanics*, the Mt. Coot-tha Gardens' newsletter.

She is a very special lady and we feel fortunate to know her and to have worked with her.



At March's planting, we sang the praises of **Brad Jeffers** who began his MOTT life at about the age of twelve (the early nineties) when MOTT owned the Nursery and Cottage at The Gap that became the Greening Australia Nursery. He had already developed a great interest in, and knowledge of native plant

identification and he would come after school to deliver seeds he had collected. He worked with Rosemary Nicholas

to develop and organize the seed bank, and eventually seeds were sent to schools and other groups who requested them all over Queensland, for their own plantings or nursery development. Brad also joined in with MOTT's planting and became the consultant on matters of plant ID for the local community.

Everything Brad did, he did well. He enjoyed everything he took part in, and the company of the MOTT volunteers, with whom he became a firm favourite. He was an important member of the monthly seed-collection expeditions. Indeed, these events could hardly have happened without him.

One year, during school holidays, Brad pitched a tent behind the Cottage, and began something that had never been done at the nursery before – propagation; and it was not long before it really took off at the nursery, making it a nursery proper.

One could say, Brad grew up in MOTT, and it was inevitable that he would eventually pursue a career in the field he loved. He graduated from Queensland University at Gatton with an environmental degree, after which he took up various positions working with the environment, and a teaching position before being snapped up by Greening Australia. Most recently he managed the North Coast Branch of the organization. His latest venture finds him working as a field botanist.

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## MEET THE PLANTERS. ALLAN THOMAS

"There's nothing interesting about me", said Allan Thomas, when I asked him if I could talk to him about his association with MOTT; but that isn't the opinion of other long-term planters ... most of whom first met Allan when they joined MOTT because it turns out that Allan has been planting with MOTT longer than almost all of the other people who come to plant these days – he's been planting with MOTT since 1992.



Allan's interest began when he was a student at Gordonvale because the school had a reforestation programme on the school grounds.

After his schooling, Allan became a carriage builder! "A what?" was my question; and I then learned that



Queensland trains were built here and still are – there is a big workshop at Maryborough. Allan, however, used to work at Ipswich but that facility is now closed.

If you are curious about how the carriages are made: the boilermakers make the underframe, which is then put on the bogies, which are already on rails, and then the carriage builders start with the pillars up the side, the roofing on, then the sides and finally the interior ... sort of like building a house, but perhaps with a bit more quality control to ensure safety. Perhaps I'm stupid but I had never thought about carriages being built here ... I mean, they just magically arrive at the station and one gets on!

Allan's railway career was interrupted by a six-year stint in the RAAF during the Korean War; he joined to go to Korea but didn't see overseas service. The most exciting thing he did during his time in the RAAF was, "Ride on a dunny cart!" You'll have to ask him about that yourself.

Although the self-effacing Allan didn't mention it, other members of the MOTTley crew speak highly of his skills as a furniture maker; it seems Allan has made most of the furniture in his house and I'm told it's pretty good.

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## KEPERRA TO FERNY GROVE RAIL UPGRADE

In the upper Kedron Brook catchment, a significant State infrastructure project is currently underway. The Keperra to Ferny Grove Rail Upgrade is an important project in terms of addressing transport needs for local residents now and into the future, but this project is not without its impacts on the local environment. Queensland Rail (QR) is seeking to remediate these impacts through a revegetation project.

The suburbs of Keperra and Ferny Grove used to enjoy some of Brisbane's best bushland, the remnants of which are still a refuge for many species of flora and native wildlife, including Squirrel Gliders, Bandicoots, reptiles and birds. However, these remnants are threatened by continuing fragmentation and the degradation caused by the severe storms experienced in the area since 2008. The upgrade of the Ferny Grove Railway and associated car park, has resulted in the removal of one of the largest nesting areas for lorikeets in the district.

Fortunately, QR has recognized that there needs to be a balance between the needs of our community and those of our natural environment. Accordingly, in January 2011, QR approached several local community groups asking them to put forward a proposal for revegetating in the vicinity of the Keperra to Ferny Grove upgrade.

These groups – Kedron Brook Catchment Branch (KBCB); MOTT; Bunya Community Environment Association (Kumbartcho Sanctuary); and the Wahminda Grove & Ferny Grove Bushcare groups – have come together to collaborate on a joint proposal that will provide good outcomes for the local community in terms of amenity, while also enhancing habitat for native species.

KBCB is collecting information from each group, and therefore is nominated as the coordinator of any actions that may arise from this proposal. Each group will play a key role in implementing various aspects of the project once it has been settled with QR, from promotion through to planting.

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## HILLBROOK ANGLICAN SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY DAY.

Hillbrook Anglican School will be holding this event on Saturday, 4th June 2011, from 10am to 4pm at the school, 45 Hurdcliffe Street, Enoggera. In 2009, the event attracted more than 3000 people and the organizers are looking forward to an even bigger and better event this year because the school will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and an historical focus will be included.

There will be involvement and displays by The Enoggera Historical Society and the Enoggera Boys Home; recycling initiatives (eg. recycling e-waste, plant pots, bicycles, clothing); stalls by community organizations showcasing sustainability initiatives (eg. growing food, care for the environment etc) that members of the general public can take up; food stalls with food served in an eco manner; transition town initiatives; entertainment by school students; an art zone; photography competition; informal talks/workshops in the Green Car Park and so on.

Many in the local community are still unaware of *Men of the Trees* and its goals, current work in the local community and upcoming projects and having a stall at the event would be a great way for us to showcase ourselves.

Since the Sustainability Day will be focusing on community organizations to showcase practical sustainability initiatives, products and messages in our community, they would welcome practical tips, information and demonstrations at stalls as much as possible. It is their hope that visitors on the day will go home with practical initiatives, stories and means for people to develop more sustainable practices in their local areas.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 2 Apr  | Paten Park, 57 Paten Rd., The Gap- UBD<br>158,A3<br>Weeding  | Marion – 3366<br>1448                                 |
| 9 Apr<br><b>Tracey,<br/>Mitchelton<br/>Cheesecake<br/>Shop</b> | Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr. Ferny Hills/Arana<br>Hills near Wightman Reserve close to children's<br>playground UBD 117,N12   | Sonya- 0408 153<br>302<br><b>Fran – 3851<br/>0858</b> |
| 16 Apr   | Planting on Cabbage Tree Creek behind Fran's place (9<br>Lynwood Court, Ferny Hills) Walk down easement to<br>bottom of hill and turn right.....<br><b>then-<br/>Management Meeting, 1 p.m.<br/>9 Lynwood Court, Ferny Hills</b> | Marion- 3366 1448<br><b>Fran – 3851 0858</b>          |
| 23 Apr   | Broseley Rd. at Kent St. Toowong<br>UBD 158 approx. J18  | Marion – 3366<br>1448<br>Fran – 3851<br>0858          |
| 30 Apr   | Duck Pond, Bardon Esplanade,<br>Bardon UBD 158, K6   | Marion – 3366<br>1448                                 |
| 7 May<br><b>Barry<br/>Sullivan</b>                             | Extension of Girl Guide Hut area, Coolibah St.,<br>creek side<br>Bardon. UBD 158 L5  | Marion – 3366<br>1448                                 |
| 14 May   | Bunya Crossing, Wongon Creek, UBD 107, Q20, to<br>Dugandan Reserve, or take Dugandan to Allen Rd, right<br>on Weston Dr. to Banks Ct. Park and walk down the<br>grassy hill.   | Adam – 0437 439<br>774                                |
| 21 May   | Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd.<br>Kenmore<br>UBD 177, N 9  | Kerry – 3289<br>9206                                  |
| 28 May   | Winter Weeding, site to be announced   | Adam – 0437<br>439 774                                |
| 4 Jun<br><b>Anne Stone</b>                                     | Broseley Rd. at Kent St. Toowong<br>UBD 158 approx. J18  | Marion – 3366<br>1448<br>Fran – 3851<br>0858          |
| 11 Jun   | Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr. Ferny Hills/Arana<br>Hills near Wightman Reserve close to children's<br>playground, UBD 117, N12<br><b>Management Meeting 1 pm. 97 Chelford St.<br/>Alderley</b>                             | Sonya – 0408 153<br>302<br><b>Pat – 3311 4981</b>     |
| 18 Jun   | Arbor Street Park (top of Cedar Creek near road)<br>behind Police Station<br>Tramway St., Ferny Grove UBD 137, L3  | Marion – 3366<br>1448                                 |
| 25 Jun   | To Be Announced  |   |

### PLANTING SCHEDULE April to July, 2011

Always check with coordinator or Fran (3851 0858) for possible changes.

Bush care 9 a.m. to 12:30 or 1 p.m.

**We bring something to share at morning tea.**

For all the help and support people have given MOTT, we would like to dedicate our plantings each month to those whose names appear under the dates above.



The Men of the Trees Inc.

## Annual Subscription

For May 1st 2011-April 30th 2012

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|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Active Planter.....      | \$10.00 |
| Concession.....          | \$15.00 |
| Individual.....          | \$25.00 |
| Family or Corporate..... | \$45.00 |

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Your valued support enables The Men of the Trees to continue the vital role of tree planting.

Jim MacDonald  
*Membership Secretary*

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