



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 Barbe Baker O.B.E.

TWAHAMWE IS SWAHILI FOR ALL TOGETHER OR PULL TOGETHER

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Volume XXIX

Number 2

July Edition 2008

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08

Have you heard Pete Rudder of 4BH relating a couple of messages for us on his daily program?

One is to encourage new membership for MOTT, the other is to advertise our National Tree Day planting on July 26th this year - and all for free. He and Cr Peter Madic, Chairman of Environment, Parks & Sustainability are also pitching in to help us rent video equipment and hire a student so that we can make a couple of videos for use on our website through U-Tube. One of these will be used by Jim MacDonald, our membership secretary, to welcome our newcomers.

The other will be a promotion to encourage new membership. This suggestion came from one of our newer members, Garry Hoddinott who has come to us with many innovative ideas and tons of energy. This week, Garry and I have burned a CD which depicts the life and sites of the planting team. We will visit four Seniors' Centres this month where Garry will speak about MOTT while we present the CD. Although our membership has grown by fourteen people this year, I feel it is important to continue looking for new members.

As it is now, the planting team is also the management team and it is hard work to be so involved in both. Planting involves many hours of scouting around choosing sites, contacting councils, ordering mulch, checking with coordinators, drawing up schedules, etc. Luckily we have Kerry Walker and Marion Goward to select and chase after plants nearly every week. Surely as we find new members we will find people who would enjoy working on the management committee and others who like to plant trees. Once that happens, hopefully we will move

into other areas to include such things as building up a database for big trees and perhaps working on the carbon credit program.

For now though, the members of the management committee are working hard to help each other in their efforts to do a professional job. When we need it, we have learned to ask for help outside the committee, and members and friends have responded willingly. Susan Hobbs for instance, continues to type up the newsletter as well as helping us with a bit of Desktop Publishing. She is also a person we turn to when needing to know specifics about constitution, corporations, Fair Trading etc. Scott Maxwell has recently been doing some redesigning of literature for us. Steve Perry who has been with us for the past year, goes from house to house helping those of us who are electronically challenged. He is our computer trouble shooter. Jessica Jakeman is responsible for creating the website and putting our thoughts and pictures together to keep you updated. Work is still in progress but the web already looks fantastic. Erika Jakeman has offered her home for future educational evenings.

Thank you everybody in MOTT for so many kinds of cooperation, whether it be financial or physical. The planting team works tirelessly for about 48 Saturdays a year in areas from Kenmore and Bardon to Ferny Grove and Gold's Scrub (beyond Samford). This past year we have worked about 2,000 volunteer hours. Way to go, Team. I also want to especially thank Keith Fordyce for his great effort in the challenging role of Treasurer. It has been a big job.

Fran Gilje, President

CONGRATULATIONS NEWCOMERS.

We are happy to welcome all the people who joined MOTT in the past two months. Jim Gorman and N Courtis are new financial supporters, as are Garry Hoddinott and Sylvia Steffek. Garry has already begun to attend a few meetings with us and will be organizing the food for our National Tree Day BBQ. Dick Cribb and Ken McAdam organize the clearing and planting of land adjacent to the Kindergarten in Taringa. Their wives, Betty and Jenny, work with us on the site and provide morning tea for the whole group. Belinda Back, another of their neighbours who has joined, has been working with us on this site for many months now. Welcome all. And thanks for becoming involved. I know you will enjoy your time with us.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Men of the Trees will be held on Saturday 23rd August 2008 at Erica Jakeman's place: 119 Plucks Rd., Arana Hills (3351 1809) at 1.00pm.

Every ordinary member, life member or honorary member present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote. No members shall be entitled to vote unless all subscriptions presently payable to the Association have been paid. A member entitled to vote at a meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy and such person need not be a member of the Association. A proxy form accompanies this notice.

Agenda:

1. To receive the report of the Management Committee, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the year ending 30 June 2008.
2. To receive the Auditor's report on the books and accounts for the same period.
3. To appoint the new Auditor.
4. To elect new Office Bearers and other members of the Management Committee

THE WAR OF THE GUMS

Taken from Anglican Aid Abroad newsletter February 2008

The monks of the Order of the Holy Cross live in the hills beyond Grahamstown in South Africa Eastern Cape, one of the town's poorest areas. A few years ago when they took over the property they noticed its creeks were dry and its gullies overgrown with non-indigenous plants. Bottlebrush, Australian Wattles, and above all Eucalypts were the main culprits soaking up most of the scarce water.

The monks rolled up their sleeves and in a series of well fought battles alongside the men and women Working for Water government agency formed for the specific purpose of combating these alien forces, completely routed the enemy. Peace was restored and native vegetation is reclaiming its home.

As a result the creeks are flowing again providing water for properties downstream. Now the monks are helping neighbours do the same and are using some AAA (Anglican Aid Abroad) money to advance the campaign. MOTT has always believed that a tree planted should be the right tree for the right reason and planted in the right way in the right place.

ARBOR ROAD REVEGETATION

KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT

A successful afternoon on Sunday 29 June at Arbor Road, Ferny Grove, involved Men of the Trees, Ferny Grove Bushcare Group, the Rotary Club of Mitchelton and staff and management from Brisbane City Council.

They combined to revegetate a large area of parkland previously suffocating under a blanket of tall guinea grass and vines. Although this planting represented a significant portion of this parkland, sufficient areas of overgrown understory were left on either side to ensure that existing wildlife still had sufficient habitat to live safely within the area.



Sausage sizzles, a Geckoes Wildlife Presentation, and displays of weed identification and catchment area organisations gave short relief to volunteers and workers at this large project for replanting native bushland.

WHAT 'MEN OF THE TREES' MEANS TO ME

by Dick Cribb

Most of my working life as a dentist I spent confined within four walls of my dental surgery in the city of Brisbane and I always enjoyed living in Wooley Street, with the spacious bush at our back door. In 2003 I sold my private practice and retired from regular dental practice. We live only about 6kms from the CBD of Brisbane and in 1966 we built our home on land in Taringa which had been part of an estate owned by Miss Brunick. She had kept this land as it always had been (rainforest) and it had become her bird sanctuary. After she died, houses appeared on the land of the estate, of which ours was the last built in 1967. Fortunately we were able to buy two adjacent allotments on the estate, one of which was immediately adjacent to the Hillsdon Kindergarten (1.25 acres mostly virgin bush) on its northern boundary. The eastern boundary of both allotments is adjacent to the oldest freehold Scout property in Australia (about five acres), Taringa Scouts.

During the 40 years we have lived here, we have seen the character of the bush in both these properties change from natural rainforest to weed infested scrub. Strangers often dumped (with complete immunity) multiple loads of all sorts of rubbish and weeds at the end of the dead end Wooley Street (where we live) onto the Kindergarten land. Queensland box, Bunya pines, silky oak and other large eucalypts had to compete with weeds such as cat's claw, dodder weed, ochra, Chinese elms, Brazilian cherries, wandering jew, palm trees and every other imaginable weed. The Scout property was similarly affected. Over the years, many of the larger trees succumbed to the weedy infestation and died.

So, after retirement from regular dentistry, (I was never a knowledgeable or even enthusiastic gardener but my wife Betty is), I found pleasure in being able to both enjoy the outlook of (natural) bush and at the same time have a challenge to try to restore the bush to its original grandeur and to maintain it as best we could. One of our near neighbours, Ken MacAdam, retired from accountancy at about the same time I did from dentistry. Ken and his wife Jenny also have an interest in nature. I would often find the MacAdams clearing weeds at the same time Betty and I were.

About three years ago my cousin, Pam Rudder, was involved with a group restoring bushland along Taringa Parade and the Men of the Trees were assisting this group to restore the area of bushland adjacent to Mt Coot-tha. After talking to Marion Goward of Men of the Trees, they offered to assist us in our bushland endeavours by visiting on a Saturday morning from 9.00am to noon with a group of enthusiastic volunteers to weed and clear rubbish from the Kindergarten property at first, then later the Scout property as well. This marvellous group have assisted us about six times in the last two and bit years.



Because of Men of the Trees' association with Greening Australia, they have been able to provide (free of charge) 200-300 plants in the form of trees and ground cover to plant after clearing the weeds. By letter dropping nearby properties of these working bees, there has been increasing interest shown in this bushland by the local community. Local people presented at Saturday working bees. One person gave a small donation – because she “is too old and infirm to physically assist”. At the last working bee, the Men of the Trees had an Indian religious group of volunteer young men assisting to clear the area, to help plant trees etc and to spread wood chip.

Of course the Kindergarten have also assisted by providing groups of parents at working bees and a recent committee member and mother organised a planting by the children and parents at lat year's Christmas break up party on the area we are trying to re-establish. The Kindergarten committee has also agreed to recompense expenses for poison etc and last bee provided a bin for collection of garden rubbish. In addition, they have had rubbish removed that was collected by Ken and me. The last committee member in charge of the grounds had all the Cocos palms on their property cut down.

I feel everyone associated with this activity is a winner. The Kindergarten have their property looked after; the local residents maintain their outlook on natural bushland (maintaining the enhancing monetary value); the locals get to know one another better; Brisbane “breathes better” and we get great exercise in our retirement.

Our small group still have a long way to go before the entire area is under control. However, the enthusiasm and practical assistance provided by Men of the Trees has been of great assistance to our small group in maintaining the bush and has encouraged our group's enthusiasm for continuing our activities in this area of bush regeneration.

CAN'T SEE THE DESERT FOR THE TREES

(See New Scientist 29 March 2008)

In 1964 Richard St Barbe Baker set out on his Round the Sahara Expedition.

He visited 24 countries bordering on the Sahara. He saw how a product developed by Esso (a spray on emulsion) had stabilised sand dunes and enabled forests to grow in formerly barren desert. The countries he visited recognised the urgency of the situation and were taking measures along the desert front. Among the states he visited was Niger considered to be one of the driest places on earth. News from Niger during the past 40 years has been sparse. Now come some exciting reports.

Dr. Chris Reij who has studied land use in Africa for three decades is now witnessing the untold story of the greening of the Sahel. In the late 80's there were treeless villages. What he found in 2004 was trees everywhere. Some of the villages are hidden behind trees. He estimated that 200 million trees have been gained in two decades. The farmers have created their own version of the Green Wall without the help of governments or outsiders. The farmers' ability to adapt to crises has been underestimated.

St Barbe in Sahara Conquest 1966 describes his visits to the countries around the Sahara. He envisaged a Sahara Reclamation programme which would dwarf any other reclamation or rehabilitation project ever planned. His dream lives on in the emerging but scant news of the Green Wall and the Green Front in 2008.

THE GREEN WALL OF CHINA

Each spring, the dust from China's northern desert is swept by the wind and spreads a choking blanket of particles over Beijing, coating houses, cars and people and the city hospitals become flooded with patients suffering respiratory ailments. The dust clogs machinery and airports and destroys crops, forcing thousands of rural Chinese off their lands. They call it "The Yellow Dragon".

The Gobi Desert is expanding by about 950 square miles per year and Beijing officials have initiated a massive campaign to attack the problem.



The plan is known as the Green Wall of China – a 2,800 mile network of forest belts designed to stop the sands. Chinese officials predicted that the effort will “terminate expansion of new desertification – caused by human factors” within a decade. By 2050, they claim, much of the arid land can be restored to a productive sustainable state. The new Great Wall calls for planting more than nine million acres of forest at a cost of up to \$8 billion – possibly the largest proposed ecological project in history. They hope to be completed by 2010.

The dust storms are intensifying and Pacific winds blow dust plumes all the way to North America, causing spectacular sunsets off San Francisco, but this could also be a global high way for air pollution – for toxins picked up over Asia's urban China.

Extract from article in April issue of Wired 11.04

Men of the Trees Schedule – July to November 2008

(Check with Fran (3851 0858) for possible changes)

Activities, depending on availability of water, will include: weeding, planting, mulching, watering, etc.

Except for Gold's Scrub (8:30am) we normally work from 9am -12:30pm.

Let's ALL try to bring water to every planting.....whatever you can handleMany Thanks

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
JULY 12th	Holy Spirit Church 1036 Moggill Rd. Kenmore	Kerry 3289 9206
19th	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station Tramway St. Ferny Grove –near Dog Off Leash area - Maintenance	Fran-38510858 Marion -3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
26th	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station, Tramway St, Ferny Grove: National Tree Day, 1000 trees BBQ (RSVP for catering) (Gold's Scrub cancelled)	Fran -3851 0858 Marion - 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
Aug 2nd	Cedar Creek- behind Police Station Tramway St. Ferny Grove –near Dog Off Leash area	Fran -3851 0858 /Marion - 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
9th	Making of video... all planters needed for background... venue to be announced.	Fran – 3851 0858
16th	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Rd. Kenmore.	Kerry 3289 9206
23rd	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr. Ferny Hills (Wightman Reserve near children's playground)	Adam & Sonya - 3480 6745 Fran 3851 0858
24th Sunday	Eprapah ???– 80 th Birthday celebrations ... Displays, walks etc.	Fran – 3851 0858 Anne -3378 4115
30th	Extension of Girl Guide Hut area Coolibah St. Creek side	Marion 3366 1448
SEPT 6th	TO BE ANNOUNCED	
13th	Dick Cribb, Site #2, 77 Wooley St, Taringa	Dick – 3371 3185 Marion - 3366 1448
20th	Cedar Creek – Behind Police Station Tramway St. Ferny Grove	Kerry- 32899206 Fran-3851 0858
27th	Gold's Scrub, Gold's Scrub Rd. Near Dayboro/Samsonvale	Jo – 3902 4448/0438 170 707 Carole 3379 1453
OCT 4th	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Rd. Kenmore	Kerry 3289 9206
11th	Environmental Field Trip	Marion 3366 1448
18th	Cedar Creek –behind police station –Tramway St. Ferny Grove	Kerry-3289 9206 /Fran -3851 0858
25th	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr. , Ferny Hills (Wightman Reserve near children's playground)	Adam & Sonya - 3480 6745 Fran 3851 0858
Nov 1st	Duck Pond –Bardon Esplanade, Bardon	Marion -3366 1448
8th	Across the street from 207 Taringa Pde,Taringa	Pam.- 3870 0950 /Kerry – 3289 9206
15th	Gubberley Creek – Gubberley St. Kenmore	Kerry – 3289 9206
22nd	Gold's Scrub, Gold's Scrub Rd. Near Dayboro/Samsonvale	Jo -3902 – 4448/0438 170 707 Carole- 3379 1453
29th	Cedar Creek –behind police station –Tramway St. Ferny Grove - Maintenance	Fleur- 0417 649 980 Kerry 3289 9206 /Fran 3851 0858

PLANTING A DONATION

Several members and friends have wanted to help us in some way other than going out to plant trees. Instead, they have PLANTED A DONATION, some of which we will use for items such as sending out newsletters or feeding ink to our printing equipment.

Jan from **LASER REVIVE** has on two occasions given me a free ink cartridge. Rosemary Berton, who works at my doctor's office, gave a donation for us to plant a tree in memory of her friend June Stacey who died last year. She is also in the process of writing a little article about June for our next newsletter.

Several others too have given us a gift of money and we greatly appreciate your generosity. Thank you to Barbara Wintringham, Mrs. P. Bailey, Ken and Jenny MacAdam and Ilze Silens. We will put your gifts to good use.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Have you heard that in Ferny Grove we are celebrating National Tree Day on July 26?



It's a special day for us. We'll be planting 1000 trees. There's a sausage sizzle for all you carnivores, plus plenty of good company (some saucy!). We know you want to see lots of trees planted. Hey, let's make this event a priority.

Extras: if you have a mattock or spade bring it with you. Mum says "Don't forget your hat and water!"

Time: 9am – 12 noon Saturday 26th July
Address: Tramway Street, (cnr Samford Rd) Ferny Grove.
(Behind the Police Station)



Phone Fran on 3851 0858 to let us know if you're coming and if you'd like us to cater vegetarian for you.

RECEIVE 'TWAHAMWE' BY EMAIL OR CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE

If you have an article you would like to contribute to our newsletter, please post to
MOTT, PO Box 283 Clayfield 4011
or email: enews@menofthetrees.org.au

TWAHAMWE - Vol XXIX No 2 July 2008
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