



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

TELEPHONE (07) 3851 0858

PO Box 283 CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

www.menofthetrees.org.au

Volume XXXI11

Number 2

March 2012

BUSY DAY AT CASSIMATY PARK

Saturday, March 3rd was quite a special day for us at Cassimaty Park

Highlight of the day was a visit from Ann Marie Barnes who is the granddaughter of MOTT's founder, Richard St. Barbe Baker.

Ann Marie, from Sydney, was accompanied by her friend and colleague, Rebecca Kirwan. Both are filmmakers and Ann Marie is making a documentary about her grandfather.



Ann Marie filmed a few interviews with MOTT personalities



... and planted a tree – her second, she joked ... but it won't be her last.



MOTT president, Ross McKinnon, took the opportunity to present Ann Marie with a drawing by foundation member of MOTT, Michael Nicholas, which had been given to Richard St Barbe Baker and which Ross felt had originally been meant for her.

We also had a visit from three art students from Oregon who are currently staying with MOTT member, Scott Maxwell.



L-R; Carmille Schumann, Frances Li and Kaitlyn Throg Morton

But did our visitor list stop there? No!!! Turn the page, dear reader

Former Brisbane lord mayor, Campbell Newman dropped in for a photo opportunity and planted a tree.



Would you believe that he was given a silver spade and a silver bucket?



What I'd like to know is – how come he gets such luxuries when we, who do all the work, only get common old plastic buckets that split and lose handles?

Why can't we have silver buckets?

I guess it's a question of money.

So hey! If everybody were to renew his or her subscription, maybe we could

afford it.

Speaking of which

MEMBERSHIPS DUE

MOTT'S membership year runs from May to April so memberships will be due next month.

We have continued to send newsletters (at an exorbitant cost!!!) to many people who have

forgotten to renew their membership, but the cost and work involved in printing, sorting, folding and posting for those of you who do not have email addresses, is about to be well ... addressed!

Those of you who are still receiving *Twahamwe* through the post may have either a red or an orange sticker on the front page.

The red sticker tells you that you are not currently financial and the orange sticker will tell you that your membership is due to be renewed next month.

There is, as usual, a membership renewal form with the appropriate information on the back page of the newsletter and now you can pay by direct bank credit. Make the payment to:

Name: Men of the Trees (Qld) Inc
BSB: 124-001
Acc No: 93057245:

And don't forget to put your name as a reference.

We look forward, and will be most happy to receive your renewal.

AUDITORS ACROSS THE WATER.

Paul Monaghan, our honorary auditor, is taking a gap year and has gone to Thailand to volunteer with Hands Across the Water, to teach English and assist with business development activities for the orphanage and the local community.

Hands Across the Water is a charity supporting the children in Thailand who were orphaned by the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami and, since its inception four years ago, it has raised more than \$AU2 million without spending one cent of donor's money on administrative costs. All costs that are incurred in the running of the charity are absorbed by its founder, Peter Baines, board members, donations and fund raising. For example, Hands cyclists arrived at the orphanage in late January; their 800 Km ride from Bangkok raised more than \$600,000. All those involved with the children are volunteers.

Their Mission is to provide the children with a caring and educational environment, allowing them to learn and expand their opportunities, empowering them to unite with the community.

Hands is a small organization, but it is doing amazing work. There is complete transparency in everything it does, and those supporting the work

with the children can actually see the difference they are making because they are involved in their lives.

It has now been more than seven years since the tsunami and what Hands has discovered is that the fight for normality in the lives of these children is only just beginning!

Paul says: "It is an amazing opportunity to do something completely out of the box. The kids and staff of the Baan Than Namchai Foundation are fabulous and as I learn more about their stories, I am getting to understand what 'resilience' really means.

Wish me luck that I, too, may contribute something worthwhile".

The sky lantern's a traditional Thai symbol of wishing for good luck.

Donations may be made or you can sponsor a child on their website:



www.handsacrossthewater.com.au/

HELP IS NEEDED!

Having lost Paul's services, we find ourselves in need of an auditor.

We don't want much ... only an honest, reliable person who is either:

A person registered as an auditor under the corporation's act 2001;

A Member of CPA Australia who is entitled to use the letters "CPA" or "FCPA";

A Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia who is entitled to use the letters "CA" or "FCA";

A Member of the National Institute of Accountants who is entitled to use the letters "MNIA", "FNIA", "PNA" or "FPNA".

This qualified auditor will be required to donate 3-4 hours between July and September to audit our yearly figures for presentation at our AGM and for submission to the Office of Fair Trading.

And what will this Godsend get in return? Nothing ... except a sense of satisfaction in helping, and being part of, a great environmental organization.

No doubt there are a few good people out there who appreciate what we do every week and who would like to help us; not necessary a member, but perhaps *you* know some generous auditor who would be willing to offer his or her services?

And don't forget we have a ute that requires petrol, servicing and insurance. However, we have used up any donations that a couple of people kindly offered us for the ute so our funds have dwindled. Again, perhaps there are others who would be willing to help with our ute's yearly expenses

But then, of course, there is membership, which, if renewed would help to swell the bank balance.

MEET THE PLANTERS. HUGH PRESTON

As I was about to begin my chat with Hugh, Marion Goward came up to us and said, "Hugh is a phenomenon ... our man of the trees. He has been looking after Mt. Coot-tha and all over there almost everyday of the week for years and years and years, and taking out weeds and doing it all himself. He has been going four or five days a week for ten years and spending so much time there; and that the mountain is blooming and looking good, it's nine tenths of it has to do with what Hugh has done and continues to do, even though he hasn't got his full strength back yet but he's still going up there. So, it's fantastic! He's a man of the trees like ... different from the rest of us and he's our man of the trees."

Well, what a revelation. I hope Marion comes up to fill me in whenever I set out to meet a planter.

Hugh was born in Scotland, at Coatbridge, a small industrial town in the lowlands, but he knows very little about Scotland, his family having moved here when he was but a wee bairn.

Asked what got made him a "Friend of Mt. Coot-tha", he said it was by accident. A retired plumber, when Hugh gave up working, he started walking the tracks on the mountain and used to pick up the recyclables as he walked. One day, he strayed into the bush and started pulling out lantana. That was Simpson's Falls and since then he's gravitated to Gap Creek Road, which is just a short drive, because he always tries to link the pollution created

by his car to what he can do to compensate for it. He believes there has to be a balance between pollution and restoration – your pollution must not exceed what you can do.



What did Marion mean by, “Even though he hasn’t got his full strength back?”

Hugh had been having the odd dizzy spell and had actually stopped working the mountain because he had no energy. He didn’t realize what was causing this, he’d just put it down to the summer heat, but then, having indulged a little at the MOTT Christmas party, by the time Hugh arrived home, he was in great pain (“Childbirth? Huh!!!”) and his garden saw his lunch recycled.

He lay in bed for a week, eating nothing and getting up only for water and trips to the usual offices. The benefit of this, if indeed it is a benefit, is that he lost about 12 kilos!

Several hours after I spoke to Hugh, he ended up in hospital where, as we know, the diagnosis was a little worse than the gluten intolerance Hugh had suspected, so we wish Hugh a speedy recovery.

Besides, he knows he is not going to die until he is at least 85 (and will no doubt live comfortably on the royalties from his proposed best-seller, *How to Lose 12 Kgs in a Week*) so there are still a lot of trees and bushland that will benefit from his passion.

Since Prince Charles, the Patron of Men of the Trees, will be visiting Queensland as part of the queen’s 60th anniversary celebrations, an approach has been made to the prince to join us at a tree planting whilst he is here.

We have received the following postcard with the following handwritten text. (Your editor cannot vouch for its authenticity).

“To all my friends at Men of the Trees in Brisbane, Hoping to see you whilst I am “down under” this year. All the best for now,

Yours



Charles

MORETON BAY

Moreton Bay is an environmental jewel and arguably southeast Queensland's greatest single economic asset.

But Moreton Bay and SEQ waterways’ annual health reports show a decade-long decline. Queensland’s politicians need to understand how important it is to invest in the health of our waterways right now.

Queensland Conservation Council is sending out a call for volunteers to help them gather signatures on their petition to Save Moreton Bay. As part of their Save Moreton Bay campaign, the petition will be presented to the leaders of all State Political Parties by the 20th March. Now is the time to ensure our collective voices are heard so that action is taken in the next term of Government to address the critical issues facing Moreton Bay.

If you are able to volunteer some of your time to help us at any of the markets listed in their schedule, please contact Jeff Poole at connections@qccqld.org.au or 0422067035 to advise your details.

The more volunteers the better. For more information about the Save Moreton Bay Campaign, please visit:

www.savemoretonbay.com.au

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






March to June, 2012

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 (10:30 a. m.)

10	Bunya Crossing, Wongan Creek, UBD 107,Q20 to Dugandan Reserve, or take Dugandan to Allen Rd right at Weston Dr to Banks Ct. Park and walk down the grassy hill	Wendy 0437 439 774
17	Broseley Rd. at Kent St. Toowong UBD 158, approx. J18	Marion 3366-1448
24	New planting on slope near children's playground on Yingally Dr. UBD 117,N12	Kerry
31	Bardon Esplanade, Duck Pond area UBD -158,K6	Marion 3366-1448
7 April	<i>HAPPY EASTER</i>	
14	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr.- meet at playground location Management Meeting - 119 Plucks Rd. Arana Hills. 1 p.m. Please bring some nibbles to share	Sonya 0408 153 302 Erika, 3351-1809.
21	Cassimaty Park, UBD 137, L1-across from Arbor St (and BP station) Qld. Rail-MOTT-Kedron Brook planting for Ferny Grove/Keperra train line	Kerry 3289 9206
28	Arbor St. Park, off Tramway St. behind Ferny Grove Police Station- top end 137, L2	Marion-3366 1448 Kerry -3289 9206
5 May	Cassimaty Park, UBD 137, L1-across from Arbor St (and BP station) Qld. Rail-MOTT-Kedron Brook planting for Ferny Grove/Keperra train line	Jacinta 0488 072 769
12	Bunya Crossing, Wongan Creek. UBD 107,Q20 to Dugandan Reserve, or take Dugandan to Allen Rd, right at Weston Dr to Banks Ct. Park and walk down the grassy hill	Wendy 0437 439 774
19	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd. Kenmore, UBD177, N9	Kerry 3289 9206
26	Nr. Cottage at Paten Park, Boy Scout area - weeding + planting at the back- UBD 158, C7	Kerry 3289 9206
2 June	Cassimaty Park, UBD 137, L1-across from Arbor St (and BP station) Qld. Rail-MOTT-Kedron Brook planting for Ferny Grove/Keperra train line	Jacinta 0488 072 769
9	Yellowood Drive where we did 'Spring into Bushcare' planting (creek) Management meeting - 9 Lynwood Crt Ferny Hills, 1 p.m. - something to share	Sonya 0408 153 302
16	Thomsett Park, Ferny Hills, minimal parking in Crane Reserve corner of Samford Rd & Gordon UBD 117,L20, walk to the right-planting near dog off leash area OR park near Olakuna & Oolong UBD 117, L19	Kerry 3289 9206
23 & 30	TBA	

Dhan Dhan Satguru Tera Hi Asra



The Men of the Trees Inc.

Annual Subscription

For May 1st 2011-April 30th 2012

Concession.....	\$15.00
Individual.....	\$25.00
Family.....	\$45.00
Corporate	\$100.00

Please send a cheque or Money Order to

The Men of the Trees

PO Box 283

Clayfield Qld. 4011

If you are not renewing your membership kindly mark
the box and return the slip to the above address.

☐

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

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

Jim MacDonald
Membership Secretary

TWAHAMWE - Vol XXXIX No 2 March 2012

If undelivered please return to

PO BOX 283 CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

PRINTPOST APPROVED PP 434810/0002

SURFACE MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA