



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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MOTT'S AGM

The group's AGM was held on September 8th in Erika Jakeman's lavishly spacious studio at Arana Hills. With the President unavailable and the Vice-President studying overseas, it fell to Secretary, Louise Cadell to chair the meeting.

There was no President's report submitted but Louise encouraged the members present to put forth some of the year's highlights, from which emerged that we planted close to 7,000 trees during the past 12 months, participated in several successful projects (like Cassimaty Park and the weekend at Gympie) and contributed to the Ferny Grove State School fête and the Forest Festival.

Treasurer, Jan Mealy, began the Treasurer's report with a vote of thanks to Paul Monaghan who, again, had volunteered his expert services to audit the financial statements. Paul began his lengthy and detailed Auditor's Report with this acknowledgement to Jan:

"I would personally like to thank Jan Mealy for her work in the Treasurer's role. The accounts, the level of documentation and her punctuality in preparing the accounts are of a high professional standard and are to be commended". He went on to congratulate the Management Committee for its "valuable contribution in the stewardship of MOTT and the organization's commitment to our community and our environment".

The Treasurer's report declared a healthy balance on the credit side with a term deposit of \$25,000 and cash in hand of \$4,710.

No Management Committee elections were necessary as nominations did not exceed the positions to be filled.

The Management Committee for the next year is:

President: Ross McKinnon

Vice President: Derek Atkinson

Treasurer: Jan Mealy

Secretary: Louise Cadell

With the support of Gerry Dunford, Fran Gilje, Marion Goward, Scott Maxwell, Patrick Peek and Kerry Walker.

Our thanks to these people who are, once again, prepared to give their time in steering MOTT.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the future direction for MOTT at which it was agreed that our priorities ought to be encouraging new membership; establishing goals and then turning our attention to additional sources of funding.

NATIONAL TREE DAY 2012

(Louise Cadell)

July 29 2012 was a glorious day: the sky was crystal-clear blue and the sun, bright and warm, made being outdoors a necessity. Needless to say conditions were perfect for National Tree Day 2012!



The fun started at 9AM, with MOTT members, Lions club members, scouts and people young, old and of diverse nationalities, ready to plant.



After a short tree planting class run by Marion, the planters were off and in no time at all, 825 trees were lovingly tucked into the ground ready to grow big and strong.



Darren Robertson from Brisbane City Council was on hand with his water truck, dispersing much needed hydration and planters tirelessly made sure not a drop was wasted, nor a plant left out.

Tree planting can be hungry work and thankfully a crew of gentlemen from Apex was on site, administering BBQ-ed sausages and smiles in equal measure to the hungry workers under the shade of a smart tent provided by planter and State Member for Ferny Grove Dale Shuttleworth.



There were also delicious homemade Indian treats supplied by volunteers that filled the gaps left over from the sausages, and everything was washed down with MOTT ex-president Jim Dale's special Billy tea.



A photo of the group was taken and just as quickly as it started, the morning was over. As people said good bye to each other and filtered out of Arbor Park it was hard to believe that trees were now growing in an area that was nothing but mulch just a few hours before. Such is the power of volunteer tree planters! Though it will take years for these young things to grow tall, everyone who helped on National Tree Day can be proud now that their legacy will be enjoyed for many years to come.

* Special thanks to Brisbane City Council, Apex, State member for Ferny Grove Dale Shuttleworth and all of the volunteers for National Tree Day 2012!

TREE AID AID FOR OLDER TREES

MOTT planters welcomed Cassian Humphreys, an arborist, to one of our plantings. Cassian told us about a not-for-profit organization he is setting up called NATURACULTURE. The aim of the organization is to be of service to veteran and ancient trees.



Apart from the need for this work here, he is also negotiating projects in Vanuatu and Timor, through World Vision.

He explained that places like churches, schools and Avenues of Honour have trees that are probably very old but are unloved and neglected and could benefit with having the soil around their root circumference decompacted by capping their crowns and by 'vertical composting'. This could extend a tree's life by 60-100 years. Many trees are struggling in their urban environments.

The first project planned is at St. Patrick's Church in Fortitude Valley where there is a tree that is known to have been there in 1914 but is now very stressed and in danger of dying. It needs its crown capping and understory planting, which is where MOTT members could become involved with the organization. It could be a learning opportunity for all those involved.

A grant application is being made which, it is hoped will have the support of the premier, the Lord Mayer and the Environment minister.

Members may be interested in the website of the Ancient Tree Forum, to find out more about this: <http://frontpage.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum>

CLIVE PRICE

We regret to advise the death of one of MOTT's founder members, Clive Price.

The Deputy Director of our National Parks and Wildlife Service came to MOTT early in 1981 and is remembered, not only for his valuable contributions but also for a wonderfully dry sense of humour.

He became one of the members of the first Advisory Committee and served several years on the Management Committee until he left to become chairman of Greening Australia (Qld) and his profession as a forester enabled him to advise MOTT on many projects.

He also acted as MOTT's historian and wrote *MOTT, the First Ten Years*.

His wise counsel, his support for, and belief in, MOTT's work made him a valuable ally.

WANTED – DEAD OR ALIVE!

(Preferably before Christmas)

Parkland Manor is an aged care facility (MSTH) in Ferny Grove. The residences are surrounded by garden but it is proving to be a fight to get the plants to flourish because of the constant attacks by the scrub turkeys.



The turkeys destroy the plants by scratching around their base, removing the mulch and eventually unearthing them.

MOTT to the rescue!

MOTT has developed a series of solutions to this and we are anxious to find out which ones are the most effective:



This is a square of chicken wire placed around the plant. It is hoped that when the turkey begins to scratch around the plant, it will be deterred by the wire and go to look for an easier target.



This is a good old standby, but the plastic has been buried several inches into the soil.

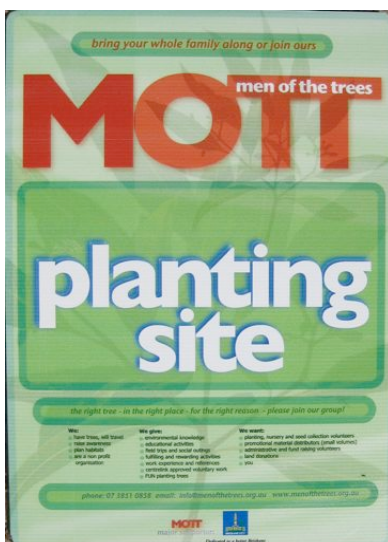


With this, the bamboo has been pushed well into the soil to create a barrier to the bird. (This one reminds me of a Vietcong trap).



Another good old standby but well supported by the stakes, which are well buried.

Our next visit to Parkland Manor should reveal which of these has had the best results. If it's close to Christmas, planters may like to think about bringing a gun.



SPREADING THE WORD

We have invested in some signs in the hope of 'spreading the word'. The concept came from VP Derek and Scott Maxwell designed the signs.

Derek's intention is "for them to be placed at all our

planting sites in the BCC area. This is regardless of whether we are currently active at that site or not, the intention was to advertise past and current activities to get some credit, exposure and advertising within the various communities".

MEET THE PLANTERS REX CALLAHAN (Louise Cadell)

There's something about Rex Callahan, with his dignified air, intelligence and sometimes-disgruntled nature, yet it is his passion for the arts that for me defines this elegantly spoken man of the trees. Whether he is waxing lyrical about Barbara Cook, writing poetry or chronicling the history of 20th century IN verse, there is seemingly no end to Rex's artistic appreciations or endeavours. A quick wit and tongue plays off an annoyingly keen ear for language, both those foreign (the man speaks lovely *Italiano*) and local. I myself am continually scolded for my improper use of words and their meaning, yet to know Rex is to understand that this habit comes from a deep appreciation for the written and spoken word. His quick thinking enabling him to get into Spain illegally via a ladder (more on that later).

Rex came into the world on a swelteringly hot day in country Victoria. His mother, from Benalla in Victoria, had to be rushed to Wangaratta, a larger town nearby because of her breached pregnancy. In the final moments of labour the doctor was forced to yank him out, resulting in Rex suffering a broken arm in the process. A dramatic way to start one's life as Rex himself has said, and anyone who knows him may wonder if the unfolding of these events embedded a love of drama in Rex right from the start.

When he was 9 Rex's family moved to Belgrave, enabling Rex a lucky childhood spent breathing fresh air in a part of the country close enough to get to Melbourne by train. After High School Rex started work at the ABC as a messenger boy and found himself in the sound effects department, for which he would later become supervisor. Here Rex worked on radio dramas and schools broadcasts, becoming John Cargher's turntable operator and enjoying the process of providing quality entertainment for listeners. Rex's work life was complimented by his work with various theatres, and as he explored his creative talents they expanded to include writing, directing and acting in films, plays and musicals.

Eventually budgets got cut; one play a week became one every three months and when Rex found himself sitting at his desk working through '100 Ways to Play Solitaire' he realized that his time at the ABC was coming to a close. After 30 years of service Rex took a golden handshake. Though he didn't know what to do, Rex knew that the world wasn't waiting for the actor.



During this time Rex had been going to tap dancing classes with the then-secretary of the Teachers Federation who asked Rex to produce the opening show for the 1988 Conference for the World Organizers of the Teaching Profession in Melbourne. This opening ceremony was such a success

that it resulted in Rex being given the task to make a video for the closing of the conference. Though he had no previous experience in conference videos, the final product was so popular that Rex found work in video beginning to roll his way, eventually doing in-house videos and filming conferences as a business for the pharmaceutical section of ICI. Sadly Government training and development cuts meant that after 10 years, Rex was again out of a job.

Feeling as if he needed a change, Rex moved to Brisbane in 2003, yet to this day Rex cannot offer a deeper explanation for this decision. "I believe you do things in life for a reason," he told me, "and the reason isn't always clear until you look back and say 'ah'". When remembering this time in his life Rex is pensive. "Why did I leave Melbourne and the theatres where I was well known?" It is a question he is still unable to answer.

Today Rex finds himself with his writing hat on, juggling the tasks of completing his fourth revision of *The Best and Verse of the 20th Century* and finishing his gallery guide, *What's It About, Leonardo?* (that he has completed, he informs me, up to the letter 'T').

When asked what brought him to MOTT Rex divulges that when he tried to retire he decided it wasn't for him. Rex started doing Meals on Wheels

(which he still does) and MOTT, becoming our resident writer in the process and eventually taking over the job of compiling this newsletter every month.

Towards the end of chat I am in awe of the experiences the man in front of me has had and the life he has led. There is plenty more I think, but since I do not have time to hear everything I ask one last question. Is there something quirky you can tell me that no one else in MOT would know? Rex laughs, searches his memory for something, and offers it to me simply. "I broke into Spain with a ladder", he declares. What? My shocked reaction was enough to provoke this tale from him:

During a trip exploring Venice, Rex had everything important stolen from him – his wallet, his airline ticket, and most importantly, his visa to get into Spain. Though he was able to recoup his passport and some money in Rome, when his plane touched down in Spain he found Spanish airport security less accommodating. Unhappy with the fact that he had no Spanish visa, Rex was told he was unable to leave the premises unless it was on his plane back home – in a week's time! Undeterred and in typical Rex fashion he told me, "they could keep me there but they couldn't keep me still". Rex promptly found an open departure gate, walked down in past the area where the luggage was sorted and, upon noticing a construction site and workers shed on the perimeter of the airport, decided to make a run for it.

Rex's quick thinking resulted in an aluminum ladder being dragged from the workers shed and he climbed up and over into Spain! Realizing that he was without money, he promptly went back into the airport, talked his way into the arrivals hall, got some cash and went to his hotel. The next day he waltzed back into the airport and, with staff assuming he had sorted his visa issue out since he had come from outside the airport, Rex was given his bag and that was that! A week later, Rex talked his way back into the airport despite still lacking the proper passport visa and boarded his plane back home. As the plane ascended, Rex triumphantly said, "I beat you, you bastards!"

Later, when typing up this story, I realize that the drama and fun of this story and the passion with which he told it to me perfectly sums up Rex. His zest for life, passion for the dramatic and flair for storytelling makes Rex a fun and interesting person and a great addition to the Men of the Trees family.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I was in Italy all June and July which, had the AGM taken place as planned on August 11th, would have given me a week to compile this issue of *Twahamwe*, with no “onsite reporting” and complete ignorance of what was accomplished whilst I was away; so I am most grateful to Louise Cadell and Patrick Peak for the assistance given in preparing this issue.

Rex Callahan

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



**Queensland
Government**

Quality & Service without compromise

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September - December 2012

The most up-to-date version of this schedule can be found on the MOTT website:

<http://www.menofthetrees.org.au>

Questions? Check with the coordinator, Louise 0404 211 733 or Fran 3851 0858

Date	Planting location	Coordinator
15	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
22	National Tree Day maintenance Arbor St. Park, off Tramway St. behind Ferny Grove Police Station- top end UBD 137, L2	Marion 3366 1448
29	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd. Kenmore, UBD 177, N9	Kerry 3289 9206

October 6	Paten Park, Paten Road, the Gap. Boy Scout area, Creekside, Site 1. UBD 158, C7	Marion 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
13	Yingally Drive, near the playground, Arana Hills QLD 4054	Sonya 0408 153 302 Kerry 3289 9206
20	Bardon Girl Guide Hut site, Coolibah St. creek side Bardon. UBD 158. L5	Marion 3366 1448
27	Bardon Esplanade, Duck Pond area UBD -158, K6	Marion 3366-1448
November 3	Paten Park, Paten Road, the Gap. Boy Scout area, Creekside, Site 1. UBD 158, C7	Marion 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
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	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd. Kenmore, UBD177, N9	Kerry- 3289 9206
24	129 Broseley Rd. at Kent St. Toowong UBD 158, approx.. J18	Marion 3366 1448
December 1	Paten Park, Paten Road, the Gap. Boy Scout area, Creekside, Site 1. UBD 158, C7	Marion 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
8	Yingally Drive, near the playground, Arana Hills QLD 4054	Sonya 0408 153 302
15 Break time	MOTT Christmas Party!!! To be confirmed...	



The Men of the Trees Inc.

Annual Subscription

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Concession	\$15
Family	\$45
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the box and return the slip to the above address.



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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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