

MEN OF THE TREES

TWAHAMWE

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

Patron: The Prince of Wales
Baker O.B.E.

Founder: The late Dr Richard St Barbe

TWAHAMWE IS SWAHILI FOR ALL TOGETHER OR PULL TOGETHER

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Volume XXIX
Edition 2008

Number 3

October

NATIONAL TREE DAY - WE WERE THERE



The Sherwood Methodist Church group in force

The place was a buzz of happy sounds...children fetching water from the creek, the newspaper reporter snapping photos, sausages sizzling in the background. All this and more was occurring in the park behind the Police Station in Ferny Grove on Saturday, July 26th.

It took two months to organize this event. It was the annual celebration of National Tree Day which is sponsored by Planet Ark. The day is held in order for all people of Australia to help out by planting native trees and shrubs.

WHY? Here are a few lessons I learned from Planet Ark (and MOTT of course):

- ❖ The planting helps to provide food and shelter for our country's wildlife increasing native biodiversity and combating the habitat loss that threatens much of our wildlife.
- ❖ Australia's greenhouse pollution emissions level is the highest in the world on a per person basis.
- ❖ Planting trees to absorb carbon emissions is one of the internationally recognized procedures for reducing the level of greenhouse gases.
- ❖ Just one tree has the capacity to absorb more than one tonne of carbon over the course of its lifetime.



Making a start on the mountain of mulch

One hundred and twenty-three (123) men, women and children, Chinese, Indian, Australian and Canadian showed us that they wanted to MAKE A DIFFERENCE. MOTT's planting team had organized one site for the planting until the response from church groups, cubs, scouts and community was so overwhelming that we had to ask Habitat Brisbane for a second site so that we could plant 1600 trees instead of the original 750.



Scout planting patrol in action

True to the spirit of ***Twahamwe (we pull together,)*** we worked together to prepare the site, organize equipment, mulch, water, food etc , make signs and truck things to the police station. The police stored our belongings overnight. The scout troupe and a few other helpers carried everything to the planting site at about 8am Saturday morning. Until noon, people dug holes, planted, watered, shifted mulch, munched on oranges and sausages, laughed and told stories. The day was a total success. We thank you all for being there.

Best wishes, Fran (and Planet Ark, I am sure)

PLANET ARK is delighted to announce the results of National Tree Day 2008. This year 312,000 volunteers, including 229,000 school students, planted 1.6 million native trees and shrubs at 3500 tree-planting sites around the country.

WEEDBUSTING "THE BARRIER" ON ITHACA CREEK SATURDAY 30TH AUGUST

Weedbuster is a national program that aims to raise awareness about the damage weeds cause. The program culminated with Weedbuster Week, from 1 - 7 September 2008. Weedbuster Week also celebrates the contribution of Weedbusters everywhere. This year's Weedbuster Week theme was 'grow me instead,' which focused on the benefits of planting natives and non-weed garden plants. *(from the website)*

It was no coincidence to find the Saturday MOTTs weeding Ithaca Creek at the beginning of Weedbuster Week. Of course, removing weeds to 'grow me instead' is what our group is usually about. However, the day was made special by the special people who helped us with our work.



Making a dint in the wall of weeds

We were joined by Kristy Willett, the enthusiastic Coordinator of Ithaca Intact (project of SOWN), who had also arranged a Bush Buddies event for us, inviting members of other Ithaca Creek groups to come and assist. We are grateful to Terrie, Robert, Jack and Di, (and Kristy) who did.

We were also delighted to have working with us on the day the Qld Coordinator of the Weedbuster program, Dr. Petra Skoien. Petra gave freely of her energy, good humour and inspiration, and stayed with us till the not-so-bitter end. How special it was also to have the good company of John Stalley, our longtime MOTT colleague (from Cottage days) and friend. Warming to the war on weeds on the day, John has since bravely gone once more into the breach as a mid-week solitary battler!

Thanks to Gerry for his impressive invention of the weed mover - a sturdy sled designed to remind us, while harnessed in force to its ramparts, of how the pyramids were built. Our weeding project at this site, like the pyramids, will not be completed in a day.

The Bardon Health Club, providing exercise for its clients of a different kind from that of our energetic workers, is adjacent to our site, on the opposite bank of the creek. The Club, too, cheered on the weedbusters by giving away gifts and vouchers, and making its facilities available on the day.

Thanks to all sixteen volunteers, who produced a weed heap of no mean proportions, and frustrated with appropriate ammunition the feline captivation (Cat's Claw Creeper) of umpteen trees.



Some of the Busters

"The Barrier" at Cecil Road, Bardon, is a 30 metre long, creek-to-roadside wide wall of weed-

on-weed separating MOTT's work moving downstream, from similar revegetation work moving upstream.

Imagine the partying when the two working groups meet one day!

BOOK LAUNCH OF LEAF INDEX BOOK No 3

On 30th August 2008, four of us from MOTT were invited to attend the book launch of *LEAF INDEX BOOK No 3* at the Arana Hills Library. It was very well attended. The author of the book (and also the previous 2), is the sprightly and energetic 93 year old, ERNIE JENSEN. He gave a very interesting talk in his inimitable way regarding its compilation.

During a sumptuous afternoon tea, Ernie signed the book and gave scores of copies away to interested environmental groups, including scouts, etc. Ernie generously gave Fran a copy for MOTT and also copies of Books 1 and 2 for our Library. They are all of the very handy slip-into-your-bag-size of 15 x 21 cm.

A brief summary of the 3 books are:

Book No 1

A Field Guide to the Identification of Trees, Shrubs and Vines in the Reserves.

These Reserves are Chermside Hills, Raven Street and Milne Hill. Maps are included with beautiful coloured photographs of the trees, shrubs and flowers, with their leaves, flowers and pods - botanical and common names given. The book includes native species and those non-endemic to the area.

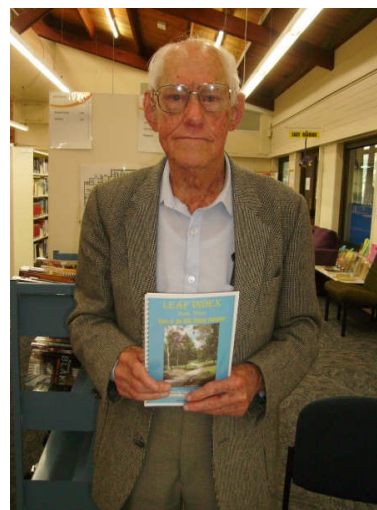
BOOK NO 2

Is the same format as Book No 1 and in the same area and includes the understorey: small shrubs, orchids, lomandras, lilies, grasses, rushes and sedges, ferns, tiny native plants and vines, succulents, and a comprehensive list of many classified as weeds.

BOOK NO 3

A Field Guide to the Identification of Trees in the Parklands of the Hills District – Ferny Hills, Arana Hills and Everton Hills - and their associated wild life (birds, possums, frogs, bats, koalas, butterflies, moths and other insects, and these are incorporated in each tree's photo.

We are all very grateful to Ernie, for his enterprise and love of nature. He hopes to publish one book a year. Long live Ernie Jensen.



The amazing Ernie Jensen with his

Miriam Elkin

MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 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
OCT 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	Gubberley Creek – Gubberley St. Kenmore	Kerry – 3289 9206
15th	Across the street from 207 Taringa Pde Taringa	Pam.- 3870 0950 Kerry – 3289 9206
22nd	Gold's Scrub cancelled Instead we will help at Marshall Rd State School Check Details in Nov.	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
DEC 6th	Dick Cribb Sight #2, 77 Wooley St., Taringa	Dick 3371 3185 Marion – 3366 1448

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
13th	Extension of Bardon Girl Guide Area Coolibah St. ...creek side, Bardon	Marion- 3366 1448

MOTT'S NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM 2008-9

(Much like the old, but with three valuable additions)

At the AGM held on 23rd August at the home of Erika Jakeman, Arana Hills, the following members were elected:-

PRESIDENT - Fran Gilje

TREASURER - Jan Mealy

SECRETARY - Kerry Walker

COMMITTEE MEMBERS - Gerry Dunford, Miriam Elkin, Keith Fordyce, Marion Goward, Jeff Mustard, Neil Thyer.

WELCOME TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Jan Mealy with professional accounting experience, former committee stalwart and long serving Planting Records number cruncher Neil Thyer and environmental professional Jeff Mustard.

THANKS - to retiring Treasurer Keith Fordyce for his dedicated service over the year.

NEW MOTT MEMBERS - A big welcome to the following brand new members:- Christine Heinonen and Helen Braddock-Hatfield.

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

It is not merely that the world is bettered by saving, replacing and multiplying trees, it is that an aim of this kind becomes an impulse towards developing a mood and an outlook which will increasingly (make it) natural to think for the future, for other people, for generations yet unborn. Planting a tree is a symbol of a looking-forward kind of action; looking forward, yet not too distantly.

Trees in the Environment 1972

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 3 October 2008

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PRINTPOST APPROVED PP 434810/0002

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