



MEN OF THE TREES

TWAHAMWE



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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 NURSERY DRAMA!

It would seem that Greening Australia, which took over the MOTT nursery at Paten Park in 1997, has itself been taken over. Its new charter to plant vast areas of trees may perhaps be the government's attempt to compensate for the axing of the Carbon Tax.

Greening Australia has, for many years, supplied MOTT with tens of thousands of plants, for which we have been most grateful. Now that our long association has come to an end, we wish them well in their new ventures.

THE MOTT SHED ROBBED!

After Greening Australia moved out of the nursery, it was discovered that the MOTT shed had been opened and cleared of tools and our wheelbarrows. In an odd turn of events, the lock on the shed had been broken, the equipment removed and a new lock put on the door! Since it seems that it was not Greening Australia that removed the items, it remains a mystery as to where the MOTT items are and who took them.



A spirited meeting at the nursery in January saw more than 100 interested people meeting with Councillor Geraldine Knapp, who seemed determined that the site, the only one of three native nurseries in Brisbane, be given over to yet another Men's Shed.

Faced with overwhelming opposition to this proposal and a petition established by those present, a temporary compromise was reached whereby the nursery would continue to operate for twelve months to see whether or not it was a viable proposition and could sustain itself. Of course, given that a lot of the plant stock was taken and

that many rainforest species take more than twelve months to germinate, the nursery is facing an uphill battle.

In a later turnaround, it has been decided that The Ashgrove Men's Shed (AMS) will be located in the SOWNY Club at Yoorala Street and SOWN will relinquish the lease to that property so the AMS will not be located in the Paten Road Nursery Complex. The activities formerly conducted at the SOWNY Club will transferred to Twahamwe cottage at Paten Road. Both nurseries will continue their roles at the Paten Road site in a similar fashion to their past activities. Twahamwe Cottage will eventually be included in a new lease to SOWN.

The Gap Native Nursery have decided to rename themselves Paten Park Native Nursery (PPNN) and will be licensed to operate in most of the area they currently occupy. So after the recent uncertainty it is full steam ahead for both nurseries, but without the subsidy GA provided, the nursery will have to be self-sustaining.

YOUR HELP NEEDED.

In light of this, seed preparation days will be vital to help the nursery restock so the more the merrier – bring grandma, who can easily sit and pull seeds out of pods.

You could also, whenever the opportunity presents itself, make people aware of the existence of the nursery and its range of native plants, for sale at reasonable prices. The nursery sales are open from Tuesday to Saturday between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm and on Sunday from 9.30 to 1.00.

THE GOOD MOTT NEWS

We have had a seedling preparation and storage area allocated to us and we can share such things as the kitchen, the potting benches and watering facilities.



Marion beginning to stock our plant storage area.



Kitchen facilities



A comfortable, shaded place for morning tea.

THE BETTER NEWS

We have had a very generous offer from SOWN (Save our Waterways Now) an organization with which we have many common aims and which has also depended on the nursery.

SOWN, which has a major part of, and like us, a major interest in the survival of this valuable asset to the community, has offered to supply plants to MOTT.

An email from SOWN president, Richard Harding, stated: "On behalf of the SOWN / AGCC partnership and SOWN itself, I'd like to offer MOTT 5,000 AGCC-produced plants a year to replace a somewhat similar arrangement MOTT had with GA. The partnership could also provide a professional journalist to produce and publish an article on aspects of this arrangement.

SOWN also has a large quantity of tools for borrowing by members. MOTT can borrow a selection of tools including a wheelbarrow and store most, if not all of them in the MOTT shed". So, SOWN to the rescue!



From left to right, Mia Wetton, Raimee Shard and Kaitlyn Anderson, year 11 students at the Queensland Academy of Creative Arts, working at the nursery's potting table.



Watering system for newly potted seedlings.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Most of you will know about the Christmas breakup luncheon that was held at the Botanic Gardens restaurant in December because most of you were there. It was nice to see the familiar faces and then a few partners and other members who may not necessarily come to plantings.

Scott Maxwell chaired events; president, Marion gave us an up-to-date about the goings on at the Paton Park nursery and president, Ross McKinnon, gave us a benediction. ☺



Ross also contributed one of his favourite poems:

GOOD TIMBER

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
That stood out in the open plain,
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil,
Who never had to win his share,
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow in ease;
The stronger wind, the tougher trees;
The farther sky, the greater length;
The more the storm, the more the strength.
By sun and cold, by rain and snows,
In tree or man good timber grows.
Where thickest stands the forest growth
We find the patriarchs of both,
And they hold converse with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and much of strife –
This is the common law of life.

(Anon)

A CONVERSATION

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these

Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it ... sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Good me! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: *Dumb and Dumber*, Lord. It's a story about ...

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



MEET THE TREASURER

Jan Mealy

It's amazing. You think you know someone and then you discover that you both have so much in common that you hadn't realized. Talk about a small world and Six Degrees of Separation! I wouldn't be surprised if Jan and I were Laurel and Hardy in a previous incarnation.

For a start, we both drive to Coonabarabran every Christmas!¹ What a revelation! ☺ Coonabarabran is where Jan grew up, so she drives down to spend Christmas with her family, which still lives there. I pass through on my way to Melbourne.

We met today as Cyclone Marcia wimped to an end above us, having been reduced from a category 5 cyclone to just constant rain. The conversation had to start with the weather, of course, and then Jan started to interview me! Once I reminded her of our purpose, the next revelation – we both keep rainfall records! If you are interested this has been the wettest February, according to my records, in 12 years. And as if that isn't enough, it further transpired that we measure our water usage! Jan began to do that when she had a leak. How obsessive!

But enough about me.

Jan and her husband, in the construction business, moved to Brisbane in 1975 to build a home and settle down. She has two sons and the latest addition to the family is a new grandson. As you can see from the photo, she doesn't look like a grandmother.



Asked what got her into MOTT, she said that she was looking for some social outlet and, ten years ago, MOTT used to work much further afield than it does now. She tentatively contacted Fran who then just wouldn't give up! So Jan started going to plantings that weren't far from Acacia Ridge (can you believe it ... I have a niece whose name is Acacia!) where she lives. She discovered that the MOTTley crew were "Truly, truly wonderful people. Everyone does their job well and they are all so dedicated".

A bookkeeper, Jan works freelance for several businesses and for other not-for-profit organizations like Motor Neurone disease, Huntington's disease and Meals on Wheel ... would you believe it ... I deliver Meals on Wheels! She has been MOTT's treasurer since 2008.

Asked what she does in her spare time, she said that she loves her garden .

Talking about what fortunate lives we have both had, Jan said, "I feel I have been lucky; I am very happy with my life. Stuff happens but I am healthy and happy and that's what I wish for my children."

What a great attitude. And how brave ... especially for somebody who has a trigger finger.



KNOW THINE ENEMY

Balloon Vine

(Cardiospermum grandiflorum)

¹ In separate cars, of course.



A climbing plant that flowers from summer to winter, it is also known as Heart seed vine, Heartseed, large Balloon creeper and Showy balloon vine.

Its stems are usually covered with stiff hairs when they are young. Its leaves are compound, with leaflets arranged in three groups of three, and often have a tendril in their forks. The 2-8 cm long and 1-5 cm wide leaflets have coarsely toothed margins; its small white flowers are borne in clusters at the end of stalks that have two small curved tendrils near their tips. Its very distinctive large, balloon-shaped, papery capsules (45-65 mm long and 30-45 mm wide) have three compartments, each containing a single hard seed.



**Queensland
Government**

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

STATE MINERS' MEMORIAL.

An initiative of the state government, the miners' memorial is to be set up at the Pan Pacific Peace Gardens, McAuliffe Street, Redbank.

The memorial will consist of an art installation, interpretive plaques, sandstone pathways & plantings. MOTT will be overseeing the transplanting of a dozen 5m tall Kaurie Pines that will intersect the walled, sandstone pathway. The alignment of the trees will direct sightlines to the 'core sample' the art installation next to the lake.

Scott Maxwell has bought the trees from Palmwoods; the Ipswich City Council will dig the holes, provide the topsoil and mulch and will maintain the site; the state government will fund the project and MOTT will supervise the process to ensure long lasting survival of the trees, thus making this a truly collaborative venture. On our President's advice, *Agathis robusta* would be the most suitable to create a future canopy enveloping the interpretive pathway.



MOTT members inspecting the site at Pan Pacific Peace Gardens for the state miners' memorial

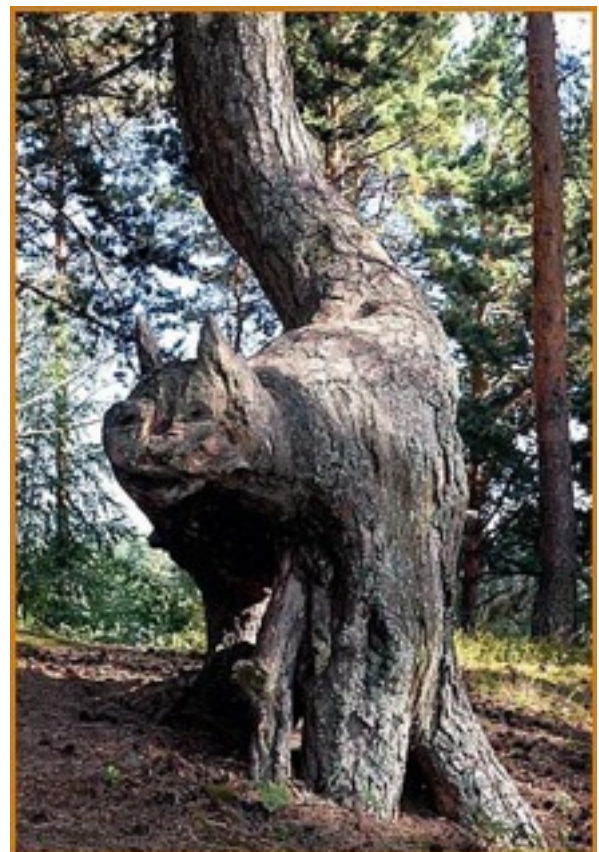
AGEING WITH THE TREES

Geoff Falkenmire was born in Sydney in 1954, the same year that the queen planted some plane trees in that city ... whenever he goes into Sydney, he notices these trees, with which, of course, he feels some affinity.

Having just become a great-uncle, he wanted to do something to mark the birth of his niece's first child, in Brisbane on February 11, 2015.

Thinking of the plane trees with which he identifies, he has donated \$100 to MOTT so that a tree can be planted for his great niece and says that he is glad to have contributed to MOTT's work on her behalf. What a great great-uncle!

TREES WITH CHARACTER



THE END OF MY ERA.

With this edition of *Twahamwe* I bow out as editor. I have been writing the newsletter now for five years (21 editions) and one eventually runs out of ideas; it is time for somebody else to rejuvenate the newsletter with a new approach, a new look and new ideas.

Setting out to thank the people who have assisted me is, of course, a minefield because I am sure to forget somebody. But I must thank Fran Gilje, Marion Goward, Scott Maxwell, Pat Peek, Louise Cadell and all the members and

planters who have submitted themselves to my probing investigations.

I would also like to thank those who have been kind enough to take the time to send me complimentary emails; it really gives one a great fillip to know that somebody has appreciated one's work and I wish the new writer/editor the pleasure of receiving such positive feedback.

Rex Callahan

Date	Activity	Contact
April 4th	HAPPY EASTER (MOTT holiday)	
April 11th	YINGALLY DRIVE Part of Wightman Reserve, Arana Hills PLANTING & MAINTENANCE with MBRC	Wendy 0409 268 838
April 18th	KERYN PLACE PARK (NTD 2014 SITE) Mungarie Street, off Settlement Road, Keperra PLANTING & MAINTENANCE	Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399
Sunday, April 19th	SEED COLLECTION MEET Paten Park Native Nursery Paten Park, Paten Road, The Gap	Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399
April 25th	PATEN PARK NATIVE NURSERY Paten Road, The Gap MOTT NURSERY WORK (Seed cleaning, propagation, potting on, etc) Parking – Use upper carpark to drop or pick up gear at the nursery, but please park finally in carpark on the left just before the bridge	Kerry 3289 9206 Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399
May 2nd	PARKVIEW DRIVE, THE GAP Planting & Maintenance	Kerry 3289 9206
May 9th	BUNYA RIVERSIDE (WONGAN CREEK) Bunya Crossing on South Pine River UBD 107, Q20. Drive to end of Dugandan Road, then down track to carpark at the riverside PLANTING & MAINTENANCE with MBRC	Wendy 0409 268 838
May 16th	CAMOOOLA STREET PARK “RESCUE SITE” Camoola Street, Keperra PLANTING & MAINTENANCE with HB group	Annie Morris Camoola.street.park @gmail.com
Sunday May 17th	SEED COLLECTION MEET Paten Park Native Nursery Paten Park, Paten Road, The Gap	Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399
May 23rd	PATEN PARK NATIVE NURSERY Paten Park, Paten Road, The Gap MOTT NURSERY WORK (Seed cleaning, propagation, potting on, etc) Parking – Use upper carpark to drop or pick up gear at the nursery, but please park finally in carpark on the left just before the bridge	Kerry 3289 9206 Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399

May 30th	CASSIMATY PARK (near railway X-ing) Samford Road, Ferny Grove PLANTING & WEEDING	Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399
June 6th	TO BE ADVISED Check the website	Kerry 3289 9206
June 13th	YINGALLY DRIVE Part of Wightman Reserve, Arana PLANTING & MAINTENANCE with MBRC	Wendy 0409 268 838
June 20th	CAMOOOLA STREET PARK "RESCUE SITE" Camoola Street, Keperra PLANTING & MAINTENANCE with HB group	Annie Morris Camoola.street.park@gmail.com
Sunday June 21st	SEED COLLECTION MEET Paten Park Native Nursery Paten Park, Paten Road, The Gap	Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399
June 27th	PATEN PARK NATIVE NURSERY Paten Road, The Gap MOTT NURSERY WORK (Seed cleaning, propagation, potting on, etc) Parking – Use upper carpark to drop or pick up gear at the nursery, but please park finally in carpark on the left just before the bridge	Kerry 3289 9206 Marion 3366 1448 0411 838 399



The Men of the Trees Inc.

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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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