



**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

TELEPHONE (07) 3851 0858

PO Box 283 CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

[www.menofthetrees.org.au](http://www.menofthetrees.org.au)

Volume XXXIII

Number 5

December 2012

## TREE PLANTING – A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE.

Yes ... I am being facetious in my headline but we did have a very nice planting at Ferny Grove's Arbor Street Park on November 24<sup>th</sup> at which we were joined by several members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at Kangaroo Point.

The day began with a short lesson in planting from Marion.



Photo: Scott Maxwell

Since the nice Darren, from Brisbane City Council, had already dug the holes and spread the mulch, there was a large turnout of planters, the day went smoothly and easily and we finished early enough to go to the Kangaroo Point church as the congregation's guests. Brian Adams, the Church's Brisbane Bishop, welcomed us and, after grace was said and the food was blessed, we enjoyed a generous buffet luncheon with our friends.



The Brisbane church was built in 1958 and we took the opportunity to look around the impressive suite of granite buildings, which includes a temple, church, offices, utility and meeting rooms and various very pleasant garden settings.



There are no paid positions at the Church, everything is done by volunteers, and so we have a lot in common with them.

I have often been curious, as I travelled up the river on the CAT and looked to the eastern bank, as to what the gold 'thing' on top of the temple was – from the river, it does not have a particularly clear shape, and here's why: it represents an angel, who blowing a trumpet to herald the last days and the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Since the angel is facing east, because that, it is believed, is from where Christ will come; from the river, one only sees the angel's back.



Our younger guests at the planting were assisted in the process by Miss Louise, who made sure that they were feeling welcome and useful.



Since we were given a very warm welcome by the members of the Church, hopefully, it won't be our last planting with them.

\*\*\*

## NEW LOOK WEBSITE

Speaking of our talented secretary, Miss Louise, have you had a look at the MOTT website recently? Louise has redesigned and overhauled it.

Each week, the Home page at [www.menofthetrees.org.au](http://www.menofthetrees.org.au) features *About Us*, *Planting Sites and Projects*, *Upcoming Events*, *Join MOTT*, *Contact Us* and *Links*. There is also an *Upcoming Events* box that shows the location of the next planting, an *Event Calendar* and *Recent Posts*, as well as a couple of MOTT videos.

A rather nice featured article currently is a history of tree planting by the Royal family in Queensland that concludes with the invitation: "So why not act like a royal this weekend and plant a tree? If it's good enough for Queen Elizabeth II ...

\*\*\*

## CITY OF TREES PROJECT

Jyll Bradley is an artist from the UK who has been invited to be commissioned in the 'Centenary of Canberra - City of Trees' project.

Her multi disciplinary approach will include; sound / photography / drawing / installation; she will explore the notions of place and identity, focusing on the complex relationships between people & plants; he will translate the rich narratives emerging through Canberra's extraordinary treescapes.

Entitled "Bush Capital's Treescapes" which will be set in Westbourne Woods at Yarralumla, Jyll will interpret the hidden stories and the hopes of the people who planted them, and those who nurture them today.

For the end result she will create downloadable podcasts -

each with a richly textured, poignant sound portrait of the myriad treescapes, stories and 'tree people' of Australia's capital.

Scott Maxwell is proposing, that we at MOTT, can link in with Jyll's project (which will be released in March 2013) as a collaborative, multi-disciplinarian project that encapsulates the history of MOTT in Queensland.

To this end, there will be a meeting at the **Toowong library on Wednesday, December 5th at 5.30pm** at which Scott will outline the proposal and our involvement.

\*\*\*

## A-SEEDING WE WILL GO

The Greening Australia Nursery (situated in Paten Park, Paten Rd, The Gap) provides, gratis, the bulk of trees and other native plants used for MOTT's annual plantings (up to 5000 plants per annum). MOTT's continuing existence would be greatly challenged without this generous contribution. But it is because MOTT once initiated, developed and owned the nursery (still named The Richard St Barbe Baker Nursery after our founder), and gave it to GA as a flourishing concern, first to manage, and then, with GA's greater resources, to own and develop, that our plant allocation arrangement came into being. MOTT's far seeing outgoing management team, and GA's generous committee of the time, chuffed no doubt by the acquisition and challenge of its new nursery, ensured MOTT QLD's continuing relevance and contribution to the community.

Now Mott's active volunteer group plants urban and rural forests, and maintains them. Recently our current Management Committee decided to offer other aspects of this enterprise to the group to add variety and knowledge and fun of a different kind. We consulted with our good friend Joe, Manager of the GA Nursery, who suggested SEED COLLECTION as by far the most useful contribution MOTT could make to the nursery. Of course, we few MOTTs who are already addicted to seed collection were thrilled to the back teeth, and the prospect of increasing our circle of addicts was inspiring, and we accepted the challenge, dependent upon the degree of enthusiasm shown by our active and potential volunteers.

Originally we thought to split the Planting group on our Seed Collection days. Those who preferred to plant would work in Paten Park, while those opting to venture into Seed Search, would also meet in (and return to) Paten Park. Since then, we have questioned this approach, as neither the planters nor the seed collectors felt comfortable with dividing the group in this way. Also the MOTT ute would be required for both activities.

So it has been suggested that we hold our Seed Collection expeditions on days other than Saturdays. Initially we settled upon Sundays, but some of those volunteers most interested were unavailable then. Also, busy Saturday planters may need Sundays as a rest and recreation day. (But Sundays might be possible if enough interest is there.)

The focus is now upon the first Wednesday of each month, and we have slotted these dates into our current calendar. Our next move is to start a list of volunteers who would like to participate in seed collection on this day of the week, but also



at other times. [PLEASE CONTACT Marion ON 3366 1448 to register interest in this work.](#) The MOTT ute will be used on these days, and if more transport is required, car pooling will be an option.

Our volunteer Seed Collectors will, for this work, become GA Volunteers, and will need to sign the GA Volunteer Registration forms, which we have available. Native seed collection has rules and guidelines, which we will all need to follow.....(for example, how much seed might be removed from each plant? The bulk, of course, must be left for natural regeneration and food for wildlife).

Seed Collection is a relaxing recreational activity, involving largely rural enjoyment, serendipitous adventure, (what will we find? Where? What is it?), and of course, stops for morning tea/lunch of either the encountered cafe/coffee shop or bring-our- own kind are a good opportunity to dig into our books to see who can first identify our treasures.

On that first experimental split team Seed Collection day, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the volunteers who participated collected the following seed from Closeburn:-

Diospyros geminata	(Queensland Ebony)
Niemeyera antiloga	(Brown Pearwood)

The fact that Joe (Nursery Mgr.) insisted on personally relieving us of this seed, rather than awaiting its delivery to the nursery, demonstrates just how valuable even this small collection can be.

And of course, the Nursery needs every help it can get. It is good for us to remember that the viability of the GA Nursery (continuing maintenance of the quantity and diversity of native plants), determines, because of the invaluable allocation arrangement between our two groups, our own viability as an organisation.

Marion Goward

\*\*\*

## CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

Time to Deck the Halls again and prepare for another Noël. So Come All Ye Faithful MOTT members and friends and celebrate the fact that we exist and what we have accomplished throughout the year.

We lost Hugh Preston, which was the downer of the year, but we planted a lot of trees and met a lot of people and have cause to celebrate the fact that we are, that we do and that we do it among friends.

So make sure your diary lists the MOTT Christmas breakup party December the 15th at Patrick Peek's, 97 Chelford St., Alderley (3311 4981, should you get lost).

\*\*\*

## NEW MEMBERS

We have welcomed several new members and planters recently, including Madeline, Tamara, Duncan, Lawrence, Cain, Max and Ross, and we could, perhaps, get them by the boat load with this suggestion from John Hull, who wrote:

"I live in Portland Vic, I knew St Barbe in the late 60's in NZ. My parents Clive and Jill Hull (both now passed) organised two seminars for him to get NZ people aware of what was

happening world wide, forests being destroyed, people not caring, etc.

"I have an idea, maybe the government could set up communities in arid areas of Australia with housing and water for the boat people, have them plant trees while they are waiting for their entry permits or whatever.

"I have a small property here, 29 acres, I have planted some trees for windbreaks but am thinking I want to plant a lot more, there is an aluminium smelter here (Alcoa) who have a great nursery where I have bought a lot trees, they are doing their bit to counteract greenhouse emissions, but it comes back to people wanting to do it in the end, plant trees, seems they are more interested in their new car or house.

"Anyway I have faith that eventually people will see the light as I think St. Barbe thought.

\*\*\*

## GYMPIE REMEMBERED

Late last year, MOTT members descended on a dairy farm near Gympie for a weekend to plant trees on a dairy farm, run by Therese and Glen Cawte.

The planting area was in and around a gully, with the goal being to create a koala corridor. The group got stuck into work, first digging holes and then filling them with several varieties fit for Koala consumption. 310 trees were planted.

Recently, Therese emailed Fran:

"At the time you emailed I do recall that the trees couldn't be seen because the grass was so high with all the rain we had. I went past the trees today and had the camera with me so I've taken some pics for you to see how the trees have grown. It looks like there were some casualties but the ones that have survived are doing really well. I hope you can see them in the photos.



“It will be 1 year next Monday that they went in the ground. I am so grateful for all the work that went into our farm that day.

“Please say hello to everyone at MOTT for us.

\*\*\*

## MEET THE PLANTERS

### Erika Jakeman

Erika, as most of us know, is a piano teacher, so imagine my surprise when I asked her to describe her life in three well-chosen words, and *music* was not one of them. Her words were, *varied*, *happy*, and *hopeful*. The word that really stood out in our conversation was *varied*.



Let's start with being born in Budapest and, first revelation: fleeing Hungary during the revolution in 1956!

Erika's father, a factory worker, had made a few contacts and so had early warning of what was happening. He had also learned that, if trying to leave the country, they came upon Russian guards they could well be imprisoned and executed; but they stood a better chance with the Hungarian guards.

The family, father and mother, Erika and her sister, left Budapest and went to a little village near the border with Austria where they stayed with some people until they got word that there would be Hungarian guards on duty that night.

They set out late and trudged through muddy fields for several hours until they reached the border. Soldiers appeared from behind rocks with guns pointed at them. They put their hands up and when Erika's father bribed the soldiers with liquor and money they were allowed to pass through to Austria where Austrian aid workers were waiting to assist. Erika has never forgotten the aid workers and their tablets of chocolate.

The family stayed at a series of refugee camps until they had organized their emigration. Her father had a brother in Brisbane so they were able to be sponsored to Australia and they came out here on the *Fairsea* – second revelation: Erika is a boatperson!

It was here in Australia that she began learning piano at the age of 11. She did her exams up to grade V and then school took over. Her parents had other plans for their daughter – she was to become a doctor, and that was that ... no discussion. She had to be somebody more important than a music teacher.

So in her high school senior years, she gave up piano to focus on her studies and later went to university and did three years of medicine until she decided it wasn't for her.

I was surprised that *happy* was one of her words, in that her description of her childhood didn't sound too happy. But Pollyanna survived an abusive father and a life in which she was not permitted to invite friends home, nor indeed to mix with people nor have any friends at all. Those of us who know this vivacious lady will be surprised to know that she grew up without social skills, found it hard to make friends and had to struggle to overcome it.

Her father's death was no tragedy to the family. In her words, “It actually freed us up; we had a very tough time with him. He was a very hard man”.

Her mother remarried and for Erika's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, her stepfather gave her five private, two group lessons and one party with Arthur Murray<sup>1</sup>. She was working as a nurses' assistant during the holidays and had saved up some money so, since she had enjoyed it so much, she bought another series of lessons.

So Erika was dancing and really loved it – “That was the best time of my life”, she said. It brought her out socially and gave her the confidence to do her own things and give up medicine, which she was not enjoying and had, in fact, given her a kind of nervous breakdown. She became an Arthur Murray dance instructor (read *salesperson*) and met her first husband, another dance teacher, on the dance floor.

Her husband having been sacked from Arthur Murray's because he didn't sell enough, eventually Erika left too and they went to the Wrightson Dance Studios. Wrightson, which was established in Perth, wanted to start another studio on the Gold Coast, so Erika and her husband were taken to Perth to learn the business, with the view to their setting up the Gold Coast studio. This, however, didn't eventuate because the marriage didn't last. Eventually she stopped dancing and her life went in other directions ... music still didn't feature.

Erika went to work as a laboratory assistant at the Histology department of the Medical School at Herston and then worked in the laboratory of the university's electrical engineering department. She remarried (one of her students at Wrightson's Dance Studio) and started a family – Amanda and Jessica.

When daughter, Amanda, started piano lessons, Erika, *after so many years* would play her daughter's pieces as she went through her years. (My italics are to show how impressed I am with this because when I came home this year, after two months away, I virtually had to relearn the grade IV pieces I had been playing for years!)

Her daughter's teachers encouraged Erika to go back to study, so *she picked up with grade VI* (my italics again), did theory exams and eventually won her teaching diploma.

---

<sup>1</sup> For our younger members, Arthur Murray was a U.S. ballroom dancing teacher whose schools were franchised worldwide. They were famous for “The Magic Step” which, they claimed, once you had mastered, you could then learn most modern dances.



At the start of last year, Jessica began doing zumba classes and when the woman who owned the business went overseas, she bought it. Erika went along to support her daughter by setting up and clearing up and ended up doing three to four classes a week, her experience as a ballroom dance teacher coming in handy after many years.

When eventually she and her second husband agreed to go their separate ways and both her daughters had left home, the empty nest syndrome sent Erika out in search of other interests and projects. She collected several brochures from libraries in the vicinity and the second group she rang was MOTT who were having a 'show and tell' at the Arana Hills library that week. So Erika went along, met the gang, started planting in 2003 and has been with us ever since.

Now I think that Erika must be pretty resilient to ascribe *happy* to a life that had such a repressive start, so I guess that *hopeful* was what got her through that. But how about that for varied!



\*\*\*

## NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS

What we do makes us feel good but it must create "good vibes" for us too because, with the exception of the ill-mannered cretin at Bardon who wants the creek "to flow" so threatens to pull out all our plantings, we are blessed with many good friends.

A few weeks ago, we realized that, once again, we would have to see if somebody could lend us extra buckets and mattocks for the large planting on November 24<sup>th</sup> ... or find some way to obtain them ourselves.

We visited several hardware stores and checked things online but there were no great deals to be had.

Fran emailed Habitat Brisbane who did not think they would be able to help us because they lost most of their equipment in the floods; but then she had a phone call from Catherine Cleary saying they could give us 20 used mattocks and Angie Brace offered us 10 buckets.

Fran even chatted up a couple of people at the dog park, which resulted in donations of buckets.



Our friends at Brett's Hardware spent hours trying to get special deals for us and eventually sold us an additional 15 buckets for less than half price. This is not the first time they have given us a great deal and they continue to appeal to their suppliers to give us a good price.

Belinda Smith, from Brett's Timber and Hardware marketing wrote, " ... we don't expect to get a lot out of helping you where we can. I always try and organise our best price (cost or donation) for you guys because I know you do good works. And everyone should contribute to community programs, however they can.

Good luck with your big day".

## AND TO END ...

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British.

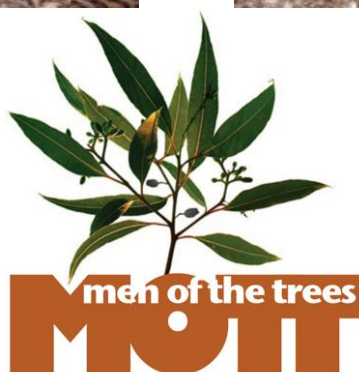
CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

\*\*\*

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



Photos: Scott Maxwell



January - December 2013

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
<b>Saturday, December 1</b>	Paten Park, Paten Road, the Gap. Boy Scout area, Creekside, Site 1. UBD 158, C7	Marion 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
<b>Wednesday, December 5th</b>	5.30 meeting at Toowong library to hear outline for CITY OF TREES project	Scott Maxwell 07 33711700
<b>Saturday, December 8th</b>	Yingally Drive, near the playground, Arana Hills QLD 4054	Sonya 0408 153 302
<b>Saturday, December 15th</b>	<b>MOTT Christmas Party!!!</b> 97 Chelford Street, Alderley at 11.00AM	Patrick 3311 4981
<b>Wednesday, January 2nd</b>	Seed Collection (Meet 9.00am Greening Australia Nursery, Paten Park, Paten Rd, The Gap)	Marion 3366 1448
<b>Saturday, January 5th</b>	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd. Kenmore, UBD177, N9	Kerry 3289 9206

<b>Saturday, January 12th</b>	Ithaca Creek, creek end of Coolibah St, Bardon <b><u>New Site!</u></b> Creek bank alongside Health Club	Kerry 3289 9206
<b>Saturday, January 19th</b>	Cedar Creek, bottom of Arbor St. Park, off Tramway St., entrance beside Ferny Grove Police Station (drive down road inside park as far as it goes)	Kerry 3289 9206
<b>Saturday, January 26th</b>	Paten Park, Paten Road, the Gap. Boy Scout area, Creekside, Site 1. UBD 158, C7	Marion 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
<b>Saturday, February 2nd</b>	Keperra Picnic Grounds, (NTD site, cnr. Samford Rd & Upper Kedron Rd)	Marion 3366 1448
<b>Wednesday, February 6th</b>	Wednesday Seed Collection Meet at the Greening Australia Nursery Paten Park, Paten Road, The Gap	Marion 3366-1448
<b>Saturday, February 9th</b>	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
<b>Saturday, February 16th</b>	Bottom of Cedar Creek, Arbor St. Park, off Tramway St. behind Ferny Grove Police Station (drive down road inside park as far as it goes)	Kerry- 3289 9206
<b>Saturday, February 23rd</b>	129 Broseley Rd. Toowong, spare allotment half-way down on right-hand side of road	Marion 3366 1448
<b>Saturday, March 3rd</b>	Paten Park, Paten Road, the Gap. <b><u>New site!</u></b> Walk along track beginning near bridge, or drive directly to Parkview Drive	Marion 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
<b>Wednesday, March 7th</b>	Wednesday Seed Collection Meet at the Greening Australia Nursery Paten Park, Paten Road, The Gap	Marion 3366 1448
<b>Saturday, March 10th</b>	Yingally Drive, near the playground, Arana Hills QLD 4054	Sonja 0408 153 302
<b>Saturday, March 17th</b>	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
<b>Saturday, March 24th</b>	Cassimaty Park, UBD 137, LI – across from Arbor St (and BP station)	Marion 3366 1448 Kerry 3289 9206
<b>Saturday, March 31st</b>	Ithaca Creek State School, Lugg St, Bardon. Planting with children, teachers, parents & community. Cars via Primrose St	Marion 3366 1448

*Dhan Dhan Satguru Tera Hi Asra*



The Men of the Trees Inc.

## Annual Subscription

For May 1st 2012 - April 30th 2013

Individual	\$25
Concession	\$15
Family	\$45
Corporate	\$100

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 4 September 2012

If undelivered please return to

PO BOX 283 CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

PRINTPOST APPROVED PP 434810/0002

SURFACE MAIL

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA