



## 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

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### STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Following discussions late last year regarding our declining membership and flagging corporate profile, fifteen members attended a strategic planning workshop at Arana Hills Leagues Club on 3 March to set a direction for MOTT's future.

Under the capable guidance of Pam Usher, members were led through a series of leading questions to elicit their ideas and responses as to a vision for the future. Although only three hours was allotted to the exercise, we were surprisingly able to distil what we needed to do make a significant change, and I sensed a satisfaction that there was broad agreement on the things that needed to be done.

As part of the strategic exercise, a membership survey was recently undertaken through Twahamwe to ascertain the views of our wider membership. Disappointingly only fourteen responses were received, but the comments supplied were sufficiently detailed to reconfirm that our members each sought to contribute differently in ways which suited their particular circumstances.

Not surprisingly we were not knocked down in the rush of members seeking election to the management committee, but it was encouraging that there were those who still wished to support us through their subscriptions (one even sent us a renewal). Other responses included helping with the watering, supplying historical information, managing the Spade and Shade committee accounts, planting on a regular or specific site basis, doing organisational talks, training volunteers and site project planning.

The message from all of this to me is that we have to appeal a widely different set of personal interests (and capabilities) with our activities.

At the workshop, members were invited to come along to the next committee meeting to help develop (or perhaps I should say consider) an action plan that Pam Usher had kindly synthesised

for us from our deliberations. Fourteen actions were on the table for implementation by March 2008 and, as Kevin Harte was to remark, there ensued a lively and positive discussion on the merits of each. By and large the draft actions were accepted as the best options to follow, and various members were tasked with actions to get things underway.

The draft action plan is reproduced here for member comment. We would be pleased to receive these by email at [info@menofthetrees.org.au](mailto:info@menofthetrees.org.au) or by phone, fax, letter or comment to Twahamwe.

It is my view that the key to our rejuvenation lies in two separate things. Firstly it is to do with marketing ourselves, and I see the phenomenal success of MOTT WA, primarily attributable to the marketing background and skills of Barrie Oldfield. We desperately need somebody with these aptitudes in MOTT Qld, and I would be eternally grateful for the suggestion of a willing person who might fill this role for us.

Secondly we need to greatly improve our project planning so that people can contribute in their own time to a greater or lesser extent, but we are in a far better position to indicate to people what needs doing and when it needs to be done.

I know that many of our stalwarts see themselves as the doers rather than the planners, but we need good plans to make the doing more effective.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Pam Usher for her *pro bono* facilitation of our planning activities and, more particularly, for summarising the results so succinctly and quickly for us. I'd also like to thank Gerry for organising the venue and refreshments and for paying the security deposit.

Jim Dale

# Men of the Trees Queensland

## Action Plan 2007 - 2009

By March 2008	End 2009 Results Expected	2009 Outcomes
1. Ten more members (younger people) and 100 paid up members	60% annual retention rate	Increased member retention rate
2. Three New projects	All projects planned, approved & monitored	Effectively planned projects
3. Three projects terminated		
4. Six educational seminars/lectures	Strong corporate governance with strong rules of engagement	Strong leadership
5. Identification of 'hook' to attract new members		
6. All projects well planned, with documentation (including maps), and project co-ordinator briefing volunteers on implementation method.		
7. All projects progress monitored against Project Plan by Management Committee	Highly publicised vision, purpose & programs in multiple outlets	Increased Profile
8. Recruit four new skilled Management Committee members	>50% members (with guests) attending education sessions	More Education & Knowledge
9. Establish member retention monitoring system		
10. Develop and commence implementation of promotional plan including to retired folk	Niche publicised and owned by all members, resulting in higher membership	Establish niche (speciality)
11. Identify organisational niche and promote		
12. Developed volunteer management/retention programme implemented		
13. All project partners identified		
14. Consider a permanent base		

### NATIONAL TREE DAY

Men of the Trees will have a special planting in cooperation with Planet Ark on **Saturday 28 July 2007**, starting at 9.00am.

Planet Ark hopes that combined groups will plant 2 million trees this year, so do come along and get your hands dirty with us. Spread the word to your neighbours and friends and ask them to pass it along.

Our special National Tree Day will be held Near the Bardon Girl Guide Hut Coolibah Street., Creek Side, Bardon. For more details contact Fran on 3851 0850 or Marion on 3366 1448. See you there.

## Men of the Trees Schedule –April - July 2007

Check with Fran (3851 0858) for possible changes **or to book for 20<sup>th</sup> April trip.**  
 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.



Date	Location	Contact
<b>Apr 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Spirit Anglican Church. Kenmore. Help Kelly and Ben celebrate their marriage by planting 100 trees.	Fran ...3851 0858
<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup></b> We MUST have 10-20 people	9 am. Tjuringa Emu Farm Tour \$5.00 - 550 Reeseville Rd, Maleny - Bring morning tea or buy emu sausage & pies 12:30pm Mango Hill Organic Farm-\$11 includes 3 hour tour and Devonshire Tea	Fran...3851 0858 Peter Thompson...5494 2224 Fran ... 3851 0858 Joy Hermanson... 5494 9329
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Drive, Ferny Hills (Wightman Reserve near children's playground)	Amanda Fox 3480 6745 or 0437 439 774 Fran 3851 0858
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St. Kenmore	Kerry... 3289 9206
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	Across the street from 207 Taringa Pde .near Freeway	Pam 3870 0950 or Kerry...3289 9206
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	Dick Cribb's Site—Taringa #2	Marion...33661448
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	Gold's Scrub, Gold's Scrub Rd, Samsonvale	Laura –3902 4448 or Angie—3902 4412 or Carole –3379 1453
<b>June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Bardon Esplanade,Bardon	Marion 3366 1448
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St. Kenmore	Kerry... 3289 9206
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd, Kenmore	Kerry 3289 9205
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station, Tramway St. Ferny Grove.	Kerry ...3289 9205 Tristan..0416 478 615
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr, Ferny Hills (Wightman Reserve near children's playground)	Amanda Fox 3480 6745 / 0437 439 774 Fran 3851 0858
<i>June 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Marion, Gerry and Fran off to Alaska, Canada and California National Parks and 2-week break for the others</i>		
<b>July 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St. Kenmore	Kerry ...3289 9205
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street creek side Bardon. <b>NATIONAL TREE DAY</b> planting in cooperation with Planet Ark. We will be joined by several GA and local volunteers.	Marion.... 3366 1448 Fran.... 3851 0858

### WEEDBUSTERS

Invasive weeds are costing Queensland in excess of \$600 million annually in lost productivity and actual dollars spent on weed control; nationally this figure jumps to an estimated \$4 billion. There are over 2,700 species of environmental weeds in Australia, many introduced to our shores as innocent looking garden plants and or stock feeds.

These weeds compete with native plant species and impact on human and animal health, the economy, the environment and its biodiversity, water quality, the landscape and people's enjoyment of our natural areas.

Waterweeds such as *Cabomba*, *Salvinia*, *Hymenachne* and Alligator Weed are four of the top 20 Weeds of National Significance. Some can double their size in 2-3 days; the ability to grow at a rapid rate makes them a big threat to the health of our waterways. Waterweeds reduce dissolved oxygen in water, compete with native plants, reduce available habitat for animals, increase mosquito populations and increase the costs of water treatment and negatively impact on the recreational value and amenity of our waterways.

We can all play our part in stopping the spread of these invasive weeds by:

- Learning to identify weeds in your backyard;
- Disposing of green waste responsibly, never dump in bushland or near waterways;
- Never buying or growing weeds in your garden;
- Removing all plant material from boats and cars when travelling, and
- Getting involved in the Weed Buster program and joining your local catchment or environment group.

For more information, contact your local council or go to: [www.weedbusters.info](http://www.weedbusters.info)

### RAIN LINKED TO NATIVE VEGETATION

Research is underway at Western Australia's Murdoch University to understand the link between native vegetation and rainfall. The experiments are allowing scientists to gather vital data to show how carefully managed land use could actually stimulate rain clouds.

So far the tests have revealed remarkable pictures of blue sky over cleared farmlands and cloud formations over native bushland.

Scientists say the increased turbulence above the native vegetation means there's sufficient convection to lift moisture high enough to form clouds. "...one way to bring clouds back over the agricultural land could be to plant native vegetation over large areas around farmlands," the University says.

The research project has so far received more than one million dollars in funding from the National Science Foundation and the Australian Research Council.

To view Murdoch University's media release, log onto [www.environment.murdoch.edu.au](http://www.environment.murdoch.edu.au)

#### RECEIVE 'TWAHAMWE' BY EMAIL OR CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE

If you have an article you would like to contribute to our newsletter, please post to Twahamwe, PO Box 283 Clayfield 4011 or email: [enews@menofthetrees.org.au](mailto:enews@menofthetrees.org.au)

#### REMINDER!

Annual renewal of your MOTT membership will fall due on 1 May 2007.

SINGLE MEMBER	\$20
FAMILY OR CORPORATE	\$30
STUDENT/PENSIONER	\$12

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