



**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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## THE BEAUT UTE (Sorry Fran ... truck<sup>1</sup>)



The much heralded and most desired Gambling Community Benefit Fund MOTT ute had its official launch at King George Square on January 15<sup>th</sup>.



A clutch of the faithful, wearing silly hats to add a bit of colour to the event, joined an international audience<sup>2</sup> for the big event.

The proceedings were kicked off by Pres. Geoff who first acknowledged the work done by Marion Goward and



Fran Gilje who had drafted the grant application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund that resulted in the grant being awarded to us.

Geoff introduced Ross McKinnon, the curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, who has his own history with MOTT – his mother-in-law was the first president in Queensland. Ross symbolically “cut the ribbon”, thus launching the ute into service.

We are grateful to Peter Jaswinsky of **SCI FLEET** in Albion, who gave us such a good deal on the vehicle, and in particular to the **GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND** for the grant that enabled us to purchase the vehicle, thus giving us the capacity to conveniently keep and move all our equipment and supplies.

Thank you to all the planters throughout the eons who have given the use of their car boots<sup>3</sup> to transport all the trees and equipment.

<sup>1</sup> It was just too hard to find a rhyme for *truck*.

<sup>2</sup> We were joined by some young Swiss backpackers

<sup>3</sup> Sorry Fran ... trunks.

## **THE MYRTLE MAINTENANCE FUND.**

Barbara Wintringham.

Now we have this magnificent vehicle, Myrtle the Ute, we will need to give her nourishment and care.

As we know, all vehicles from donkey carts to modern utilities need fuel and maintenance. Our hard-working week-end team go all over the place to plant trees. Not being able to do that anymore I have made a New Year Resolution to save \$2 a week (or maybe \$4 a fortnight on pension day) then, at the end of the year I can give MOTT \$104 towards Myrtle's running costs.

As Myrtle needs fuel and care from day one a couple of friends and I are starting off this Fund with \$100 each and maybe some other friends could join us? We could become the Myrtle Main-tenance Support Group and really feel part of the planting enterprise. I do hope you can help.

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## **SCENIC RIM TRIP**

Brian Springthorpe

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January a group of MOTT people, ably led by Fran and Scott Maxwell, completed a 300 Km round trip of the Scenic Rim.

The group started at Boonah (with a compulsory stop for coffee and muffins), then moved on to the magnificent lookout at Mt. French.



From here the convoy went to Lake Maroon Dam, which showed a healthy water level, and then on to "Rathlogan Grove" just outside of Rathdowney.

This olive farm, nestled in the foothills of Mts. Barney & Maroon, is a tribute to the hard work of its owners Colin and Marilyn Liebke, who overcame many obstacles to establish a successful olive and olive oil business. Marilyn provided an excellent lunch (grilled Barramundi!) following an informative talk by Colin on olives and their processing in the impressive "Olmio" machine.



After lunch, Colin took us on an extensive tour of his olive grove and explained the numerous factors which influence the production of this fruit. As usual, the members asked a lot of difficult questions which Colin was able to answer without hesitation.



The convoy returned through Rathdowney and Beaudesert to Brisbane.

## CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY!

A recent email from Fran Gilje was about the visit to Killarney on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Shouldn't we wait until all of the folks are home?

Oh, don't worry dear reader; you'll get used to my sense of humour.

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### PATEN PARK Marion Goward

On 8th August last year, the Planting Group began the task of revegetating that part of Paten Park once referred to as the Lesser (or 2nd) Natural Regeneration Area. In agreement with the Council, this site had been successfully fenced off against mowers for fourteen years, and had become a thriving infant forest of blue gums, greys, bloodwoods, ironbarks, swamp box and acacias, overlooked by their parent trees. But with an inversion of the kind that can occur in desperate times, this area was chosen by Council workers for destruction by machines in the aftermath of "the big storm" (see reference to this event, and a photo of the site in the first Newsletter of 2009). No blame to the Council - we could have had the fencing improved, or organised signage with the Habitat Brisbane team, which may have helped.

After the first shock of this event had passed, the Council was approached, and permission given to attempt restoration of the area, (though no-one, not even MOTT, can succeed as well as nature can). Because the area was clear of all botanical life, we thought that the 150 or so trees brought to the task, would be quickly planted. How wrong we were. Compaction of the soil by weeks of log-dragging and mulching machines had brought it almost to the consistency of concrete.

Hours of digging and soaking the holes resulted in a mere 35 trees planted on the day, with questionable chance of survival. They had, after all, in effect, been taken from very small pots (tubes) and inserted into other very small pots (dints in the "concrete"). Our disappointment was immense in the discovery that, not only was an area of thriving natural regeneration completely lost, but restoring it would be impossible, even to the least degree. A "concrete" desert it must remain.



Hugh taking a breather at the 2<sup>nd</sup> planting

Difficult to accept - and we didn't. We decided to approach the Council (so helpful, Neil Millstead from Habitat Brisbane West), to rip it for us - plough it up - and then mulch it. Neil met with us to inspect the site, and agreed to do it. At this meeting, one of our MOTTs asked about the advisability of adding water crystals (properly prepared by soaking overnight) to our planting holes (mixing with the soil at the bottom). Interestingly, this suggestion split both the two Council representatives and the MOTTs in attendance down the

middle regarding the usefulness (in general) of water crystals in planting.

To summarise - the “pros” have it that water crystals collect and concentrate moisture at the roots during dry periods or on dehydrated sites, keeping plants alive when severely challenged, and in fact, greatly helping to establish them. Alternatively, because the crystals can last up to 5 years in the ground, the “cons” regard them as having the potential of inhibiting healthy root growth, the roots tending to stay where moisture is, rather than spreading out in search of it, and so expanding naturally. Neil invited us to attempt to throw some light on this question by setting up a trial on the site. He said that Habitat Brisbane would be very interested in the result.

The Paten Park site was subsequently ripped and mulched in preparation for our second planting on Saturday 31st October.

The planting area was divided into two, and the same number of trees and choice of species planted on either side of a line of logs. This division was emphasized by staking the water-crystallised half of the planting. The experiment, of course, is both imprecise (not able to take into account factors such as individual plant/planting quality, equality of water supply, and soil variability), and subject to an unusual condition ... an unfortunate condition, in that four inches below the surface of the soil, (a little deeper this time), each plant has to contend with ..... the “concrete”! Yes, it is still with us.

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### **MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT.**

MOTT QLD has a new president – environmental auditor and father of two, Jeff Mustard.



Jeff Mustard

Born in Townsville, Jeff’s youth was spent moving from place to place every 18 months or so as his Air Force father was posted around the country. Jeff learned how to make friends quickly because in 13 years he attended 14 different schools.

Beginning his working career in computing and electrical control systems, Jeff spent the next 12 years working for a number of companies to acquire new knowledge from leaders in their fields.

Looking for a change, and seeking to make a contribution to society, Jeff returned to University to complete a Science degree. Over the following 13 years he worked for consultancy firms, local government, state governments (Western Australia and Queensland) and with NATA Certification Services International (NCSI).

In 2007, Jeff started Mustard Environmental.<sup>4</sup> His company does environmental audits to ISO 14001 standard and quality management audits to ISO 9000 standard for companies that are looking to improve their environmental or management credentials and thus their bottom line.

A company will set up its policies and practices according to international standards and then Jeff checks that they are, in fact, practising as they

<sup>4</sup> [www.mustardenvironmental.com.au](http://www.mustardenvironmental.com.au)

claim and write a report.

Jeff's believes that if one is not learning, one is not living and that the best way to fill a void in one's life, or to get through a crisis, is to explore different areas, and this has taken him to Reiki, massage, reflexology and the Bible. He cites *Ulysses* as a strong influence in his life.<sup>5</sup>

Jeff came to MOTT via his wife, Suzanne<sup>6</sup>, who was active in the South Australian branch. The two of them want to put something back into society and planting trees through MOTT is close to their hearts.

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### **A PLETHORA OF PLANTERS.**

Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at Cabbage Tree Creek saw a clutch of young people turn up to plant and weed ... how nice! The planting was finished by 10.00 which left time for the odd water fight.

And one of them, Minjay Kook, made a \$20 donation.

This is all to be encouraged!!!!

### **MEET THE PLANTERS**

Keith Fordyce was born in Cairns but moved to Brisbane as a child and grew up at Breakfast Creek.

After leaving school, his first job was with the PMG (now Telstra) where he joined the all-male workforce because in those days, women were not generally a part of the workforce.

His next job was with a company that made carbon paper ... remember carbon paper? For those of you who were born in the computer age, let me explain: in the "olden days", if you wanted a copy of a letter, or several copies of a document, you would put a piece of carbon paper between the

sheets of letterhead or invoice or whatever and, as you wrote, or typed, it would impress what you wrote onto the sheet of paper beneath it.



**Keith Fordyce**

You can't say this newsletter is not educational.

Keith took an exam to become a clerk in the Qld. Railways. QR wanted 50 people and Keith was the 55<sup>th</sup>, but they offered him a job cleaning the locomotives at Woolloongabba which didn't suit Keith because he lived at Breakfast Creek and usually walked to work. At that time, the railways were split north and south of the river because there were no rail bridges across the river, so they gave him the job at Mayne Junction (Bowen Hills).

Keith was a cleaner until he took his fireman's exam which, he says, was virtually proving that you could use a shovel because, back then, all QR trains, even on the suburban lines, were steam trains. So he remained a fireman and then moved on to be an acting driver.

When the W.W. II broke out he, along with most of the other young firemen, was taken to Townsville for military training which left the train drivers having to do the stoking of their trains' boilers; when they objected, Keith was one of the firemen who was declared as being part of essential services and was returned to Brisbane.

<sup>5</sup> Via Homer's *Odyssey*, not James Joyce.

<sup>6</sup> Pictured on page 1.

Keith eventually became a train driver and in November 1978, it was he who handed the controls over to Joh Bjelke Peterson when the first train crossed the new Merivale Bridge.

Later, Keith became involved in the AFULE, The Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen, first as treasurer under Theo Kissick and, when Kissick retired, Keith became union president, a position he held for 14 years until he retired in 1982.

Keith's wife died in 1995 and he felt somewhat at a loss. There was a story in the paper about Richard St. Barbe Baker and Keith was interested in what he read so he contacted Fran Gilje and joined MOTT in 1996.

Thanks Keith ... that's a lot of trees!

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### **FEARS THE LAND IS LOSING ITS GOODWILL Grants scheme under fire**

This article, by Rosslyn Beeby, was originally published in *The Canberra Times*. It is reproduced with permission.

Australia's Landcare volunteers have been "alienated and disenfranchised" by the Rudd Government's \$2.5 billion Caring for Our Country environmental grants scheme, a Senate report says. The hard-hitting report, tabled yesterday [February] by the Senate's rural and regional affairs committee, stops short of calling the program a failure but recommends a comprehensive overhaul.

Caring for Our Country was launched in 2008 by Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett to replace the former Howard government's \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for salinity and water quality.

After an 18-month inquiry into national conservation networks, including Caring for Our Country, the

Senate committee's report paints a damning picture of a "closed shop" Canberra-centric program, undermining morale and mateship among rural Landcare volunteers across the country. The Senate inquiry, chaired by NSW Nationals senator Fiona Nash, received almost 70 submissions and heard evidence from more than 30 people involved in coordinating major Landcare projects in rural areas.

The report said Caring for Our Country's rushed introduction by the Rudd Government in 2008 had disrupted thousands of rural conservation programs, leading to widespread loss of qualified staff and high levels of stress and anxiety at the prospect of programs being wound up.

Two Labor committee members involved in the inquiry, West Australian senator Glenn Sterle and Tasmanian senator Kerry O'Brien, added a dissenting statement to the report, claiming it was "excessively and unduly critical of Caring for Our Country, even to the point of being incorrect".

Greens senator Rachel Siewert, who has been involved with Landcare groups in Western Australia since 1984, said the report revealed Australia was in danger of losing the goodwill and generosity of thousands of conservation volunteers "motivated by a passionate love of the landscape they live in". Senator Siewert said the program had led to the unnecessary closure of programs and "ripped the heart out" of communities.

"People are just giving up on being involved in local conservation projects because they feel so discouraged. Caring for Our Country has eroded the trust the Landcare movement was built on," she said.

The Senate report accused the program of adopting a "closed shop" approach,

excluding and ignoring input from rural Landcare groups in setting national conservation targets. It said the program failed to build on more than 30 years of federal investment in landscape repair, leading to a widespread loss of conservation staff and skills across the country.

"Rather than build on the lessons and achievements of the past, Caring for Our Country has placed this legacy in grave danger. Where previous programs had successfully mobilised people and resources in all levels of government, private industry and local communities, Caring for Our Country has effectively disenfranchised people engaged in natural resource management."

The report warned that by forcing conservation groups to compete against each other for a limited pool of grants, the scheme was undermining the co-operative spirit of volunteer programs.

It said a "consistent concern" heard by the inquiry was that the program would "pit groups who had previously relied on each other for support and assistance against each other in the bid to secure funds". The CSIRO told the inquiry there was a risk of "hard-won alliances" being lost, and warned the scramble for funds could remove the incentive to cooperate.

A catchment manager in Western Australia said the program had discarded "tens of millions of dollars of previous work" in developing conservation plans for the region.

The report also questioned the high number of projects that were unsuccessful in obtaining funding, with only 57 projects being chosen from more than 1300 applications.

Its nine recommendations include a revamp of the program's business plan,

more consultation with Landcare groups, and cutting the time and cost involved in applying for funding.

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### **POSSIBLE CANCER CURE FOUND IN BLUSHWOOD SCRUB**

This article, by Peter Michael, was originally published in *The Courier Mail*. It is reproduced with permission.

Cancer patients are offering themselves as human guinea pigs as researchers investigate a possible cure for cancer that was found in north Queensland rainforests. Scientists have identified a compound in the fruit of the native blushwood shrub that appears to "liquefy and destroy cancer with no side-effects", according to latest research. Found deep in the remnants of a 130 million-year-old rainforest, the fruit extract may yet hold the secret antidote to Australia's No.1 killer disease.

Victoria Gordon, of EcoBiotics, an Atherton Tableland-based company, said they hoped to go to human clinical trials later this year. Dr Gordon said a single dose injection of the extract, known as EBC-46, had been effective in 50 critically ill dogs and about a dozen cats and horses.

"This is proving to be something exceptional," she said. "The tumour literally liquefies. There is a rapid knock-down of the tumour, it disintegrates within 24 hours and we have a rapid healing response.

"The biggest tumour we treated was the size of a Coke can in a dog, and that animal is fully healed and healthy."

Dr Gordon said it had worked on skin cancers, such as carcinomas and melanomas, and bone cancer, and was a possible treatment for breast, colon and prostate cancer. But she warned

wannabe human guinea pigs against seeking under-the-table treatment. She said it was "immoral, illegal, and unscientific" to seek to be administered the drug before approval, likely to take up to seven years, by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

"We have been inundated with calls – it shows there is such a need for a breakthrough in anti-cancer treatment," she said. "Most people understand when we explain the situation."

Former breast cancer sufferer Mena Crew, 65, said many dying of cancer would "do anything for a miracle cure". "We would all like a magic cure, that would be wonderful, and I hope in my lifetime we find it," the breast cancer support volunteer said.

She has worked with more than 200 sufferers and some victims in her role with the Cancer Council Queensland.

"I don't want to kill the enthusiasm of all the wonderful research, but until it is proven it will do the job, we recommend they go with proven and conventional treatments," she said. "It is good, however, to think the secret antidote may be growing in the jungle above Cairns."

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### **WHO IS TREVOR? WHERE IS HE?**

The Schedule said, "Behind Trevor's home, corner of Sampson Rd and Old Sampson Rd".

I have a GPS Navigator so there should be no problem! Arriving on the corner of Sampson Rd and Old Sampson Rd, I could see no sign of a house. On the other side of Sampson Rd there was a small settlement – public hall etc, but on the corner ... no sign of a house. Resorting to older technology (the street directory) I discovered that Old Sampson Rd.

circles around and joins Sampson Rd some distance on so I followed Old Sampson Rd. and, once again, came to the corner of Sampson Rd where I met up with the Mustards!

"Aha!" I thought, "I've found it!" But no ... the Mustards were lost too.

I never did find Trevor's house but since this newsletter aims to educate you, Trevor's house is at 1692 Samford Rd. Good Luck!

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### **BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS?**

Bianca Baptista is a post graduate student who is doing her Masters in IT and Business Systems Design and Management. As part of her course, she has to plan a project for a business or a community group.

Pres. Jeff would like to see MOTT getting some corporate sponsorship with the view to raising money to buy land on which to plant and maybe even having our own home, somewhere to park the ute and store the tools, perhaps even establish some kind of nursery.

With this in mind, a group of people had a meeting with Bianca and thrashed some ideas around.

Later in the week, there was further discussion at morning tea with all those who turned up for planting on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

The basic idea is to offer levels of sponsorship to corporations on a point per dollar basis starting with a basic sponsorship and going through bronze, silver and gold to platinum, in a similar way to the method used to accumulate frequent flyer points.

Corporations would pay to sponsor per tree planted, whether it be on their land

For their sponsorship, in addition to

helping the environment (which always looks good on an annual report!) they would be given recognition and, when and if it becomes valid, they will be able to claim the carbon credits for which those trees will allow.

The ultimate aim, as I wrote above, is for MOTT to own some land on which we can plant as an ongoing venture; maybe even strike gold or find oil and get rich beyond our wildest dreams!!! Oh dear! I'm getting too excited. Who knows ... maybe MOTT Qld may even spread further than the north-west suburbs of Brisbane! More meetings are planned – stay tuned.

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## THE PLANTERS' PRAYER

Dear God,  
Please *don't* let Saturday be too hot;  
Please *don't* let there be many rocks in my plot;  
Don't let it rain until we've left;  
Protect our planted trees from theft.  
*Please* let there be a heap of water;  
*Please* make sure I only weed plants I oughta.  
Please remind me to take a few biscuits or cake  
And not just devour what the others all take.  
Please make sure whatever I plant will survive ...  
Don't just let them grow, make sure that they thrive!

MAKE A DONATION ...

## EASE YOUR TAX BURDEN.

You should be aware (and you definitely should tell your friends) that, thanks to the work of Suzanne Miller-Mustard and Jan Mealy, any donation to Men of the Trees is fully tax deductible.

So if you find yourself moving into a higher tax bracket, MOTT would be only too please to give you a receipt for whatever amount it would take to bring you back to the lower tax bracket.

No. Don't thank us ... it would be our pleasure!

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One of the unfortunate consequences of deforestation.

## PLANTING SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
10 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd.	Kerry – 3289 9206
17 <sup>th</sup>	Extension of Girl Guide Hut area, Coolibah St. creek side, Bardon	Marion 3366 1448
24 <sup>th</sup>	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr., Ferny Hills/ Arana Hills near Wightman Reserve close to children's playground	Sonya 0408 153 302 Fran – 3851 0858
<b>MAY 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Killarney	Fran – 3851 0858
8 <sup>th</sup>	Extension of Girl Guide Hut area, Coolibah St. creek side, Bardon	Marion – 3366 1448
15 <sup>th</sup>	Behind Trevor's home, 1692 (corner) Mt. Samson & Old Mt. Samson Rd., Closeburn	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bunya Crossing, Wongon Creek, UBD 107 to Dugandan Reserve or take Dugandan to Allen, rt. On Weston Dr. to Banks Ct. park, walk down hill	Adam - 0437 439 774
29 <sup>th</sup>	“The Winter Weeding”, Dawn Road Reserve	Adam: 0437 439 774
<b>JUNE 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Keperra Picnic Grounds, Samford Rd., Upper Kedron	Kerry, Fran, Marion
12 <sup>th</sup>	Extension of Girl Guide Hut area, Coolibah St. Bardon,	Marion 3366 1448
19 <sup>th</sup>	Looking at properties around Laidley? Bring picnic lunch	Mob: 0405 182 796
26 <sup>th</sup>	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr., Ferny Hills/Arana Hills near Wightman Reserve	Fran – 3851 0858