



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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NATIONAL TREE DAY 1 AUGUST 2009



National Tree Day is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event and gives all Australians an opportunity to become involved. Our event this year saw 1200 native trees and shrubs planted at the Keperra Picnic Grounds, Ferny Grove, where the park had been devastated by the November 2008 storms. This wonderful achievement is the result of dozens of individuals from the community: young families, Neighbourhood Watch, Lions Club, Brisbane City Council, Art of Living etc, helping the Men of the Trees to make this event a wonderful success. People brought their shovels, mattocks and picks and joined in the fun.

Our own MOTT team began work several weeks previous to the big day. This year there was a freshness in our appearance as we all wore lemon/lime coloured vests that we had purchased. Our new trailer whose beautiful mural was painted by Scott and his students stole the show – and what a relief it was to have all the tools and plants arrive in it together instead of having items spread amongst all our cars. There were 23 of us on the MOTT team this year compared to about eight or nine two years ago. This includes several non members, Andrew and Tristan and David, who are always available to give us a hand when we ask. Everyone on the team pitched in to help, whether it be choosing the site and plants, designing and producing bumper stickers, making signs and badges, acting as parking attendant, serving Billy tea and coffee, working on the greeters' table or showing visitors how to plant etc. WHAT A GREAT TEAM. The Mitchelton Lions served sausages and drinks for \$1.00 apiece.



Keperra Picnic Grounds after the Nov 08 storm



Final roundup -core MOTT Planters & Planners

Together we can provide food and shelter for wildlife, promote biodiversity, offset carbon emissions, beautify the natural spaces and enjoy the company of the members in our community.

Keep Saturday, July 31st 2010 open for another great National Tree Day.

Best wishes,
Fran

AGM 2009 AND US

The day (29.8.09) began with **Spring into Bushcare**, a morning organized by Adam Christison of the Parks Department, Moreton Bay Regional Council. A number of Bushcare groups from the Pine Rivers area came together with a common goal to celebrate as a network enjoying a tree planting and get together at the delightful morning tea.

This celebration was held at one of our Wightman Reserve sites in Ferny Hills. The morning was such a success that Adam plans to hold similar get-togethers two or three times a year. After this function we collected at Lynwood Court for coffee, cookies and **The AGM**.

We were delighted that about 20 members were present at the meeting. For next year, we will borrow a few extra mugs and chairs. In addition, we received 15 apologies and proxy votes. What a fine example of the caring of the MOTT membership.

My monologue was fairly brief but here is a bit of what has affected our life in MOTT. In April, 2007 we gathered at the Arana Leagues Club for a strategic planning meeting, organized by Jim Dale. Our workshop designer and facilitator was Pam Usher. Together, about twenty of us discussed topics such as planning and monitoring projects, publicizing purpose and programs, attending education sessions and establishing a niche.

Here are a few ways in which our membership has responded:

Two years ago, we had a membership of 73 and were concerned about having to wind up MOTT activities. **But what would Queensland be without the Men of the Trees organization? Let it not be so.**

Our volunteers and supporters attended to some of the following: redesigned our website which Jessica keeps updated with the information and stories we send her. Made two videos, designed

a new membership form, planting attendance sheet, car stickers and brochures (in colour).

In addition, Pete Rudder did several free announcements for us on radio, Northwest News has published several stories written by their reporters and our members, and accompanied them with some great photos. Today we have 100 members. Bravo to all who worked so hard.

We also have ads for volunteers on the Volunteering Qld. And SEEK websites. Through them we meet many students who manage to work with us on occasion.

Several people have liaised with BCC and Moreton Bay re: preparation of our four new sites: Samford, Keperra, The Gap and Wongon Creek. We have now completed the 17 one-day sites set up by Gerry in the Samford area (project described in the last Newsletter).

It was suggested that we attend six educational seminars and that we have done too. We have enjoyed several speakers, a variety of environmental DVDs, trips to places like Wild Mountains in Rathdowney and Bellthorpe State Forest. We intend to continue with this idea.

We received a grant several months ago and with it purchased some outdoor furniture and a trailer. Scott and his team of students had it beautifully painted in time for Neil to drive it into the Keperra Picnic Grounds on National Tree Day.

We still have many challenges ahead. I have invited Jeff Mustard to be our new president. He has some great new ideas for MOTT to develop. Let's give him and the Men of the Trees our best effort.

I thank every one of you for all your support whether it be physical, monetary, writing for the newsletter, being members of the Management Committee or simply giving advice or encouragement. We need and appreciate all of you.

Warmest wishes,
Fran

MOTT COMMITTEE 2009/10

President: Jeff Mustard	Committee Members: Gerry Dunford	Marion Goward
Secretary: Kerry Walker	Keith Fordyce	Pat Peek
Treasurer: Jan Mealy	Miriam Elkin	Neil Thyer
	Fran Gilje	

It must also be mentioned that our outgoing President, Fran Gilje, was thanked for her dedicated leadership, and also for her previous and continuing service (invaluable for our organisation, and personally demanding for her, though she never complains) of coordinating MOTT activities through her production of the Schedule, for providing our liaison with other organisations and for being the telephone and email contact and support for all enquiring members of the public, and all our volunteers.

NEW MOTTs

Welcome to new MOTT members Jessica Lovatt (from England) and Peter McCarthy (a former member, rejoined). We look forward to working with you both this year.

First Successful Grant Application of the Year



Our NTD planting was also the scene of the launching into service of a handsome new possession of our organisation - a trailer. This is no ordinary trailer, but one expertly tailor-made to suit our needs, that is, for use with our larger plantings. A galvanised box trailer with canopy roof and shelving with trays for plants, it was carefully designed (starting from the SOWN example) by Gerry Dunford and Neil Thyer, who put a great deal of work into creating perfection. We thank them for their successful efforts.

With it came full electrical connections and registration. It was purchased, along with an impressive range of outdoor tables and chairs (also christened on the day) from sponsorship by the Australian Government's Volunteer Grants Program 2008. We are grateful to this facility for its generous support of our organisation and its achievements and goals.

A very special thanks must go to Fran Gilje, without whom such a windfall may never have come our way, as it was Fran who initiated and orchestrated the grant application. And our final thanks, last (in the production line) but never least, goes to our hard-working artist Scott Maxwell. With the assistance of his college students, Scott provided our trailer with wonderful decorative presence, designed to attract admiring and inquisitive eyes wherever it goes.

SECOND SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION OF THE YEAR

MOTT'S BEAUT UTE

For years the MOTT Saturday Planting Group have been transporting in their own vehicles all of the plants and equipment needed for each working day. This involves items such as mattocks and mulch forks, brush cutter, wheelbarrows, hoses on reels, pump, many buckets, large bins (eg wheelie bins for collecting pumped water), trays of plants, first-aid kit, tables and chairs and morning tea supplies. Often for some of our vehicles, two or three trips are required to and from a site to bring and return the necessary gear.

Imagine being able to keep our basic equipment permanently aboard a vehicle designed for the purpose, which could be driven to and from the particular site in hand each week, leaving our own cars free for transporting people and personal things! Most of us had not aspired to even consider such a possibility. But Fran did. And Fran put the word about that she did.

The first consequence of this enthusiasm by our then President, was an amazingly generous donation of \$5000 from our dear MOTT member and friend, Barbara Wintringham. What an effect this wonderful contribution had upon us! The MOTT Ute project was suddenly catapulted from daydream status into the realm of possibilities. After all, the chassis, wheels and transmission had already been paid for - we could almost see our working car charging towards us, radiating mattocks and goodwill! Along came the annual invitation to apply for a grant offered by the Queensland Government's Gaming Community Benefit Fund, and what amounted to Scifleet Toyota's sponsorship of our organisation by supplying a quotation for a Hilux with the same huge discount given for Government vehicles, enabled us to duck under the Grant's \$30,000 limit, and make our application.

Our brand new MOTT Ute, with matching hardshell canopy (thanks Barb) is the colour of the river sand into which our trees are often planted - a working colour. And Scott Maxwell has once again performed his artistic magic upon the doors in an innovative meeting of MOTT's and Government logos.

Scott has also been the mastermind behind an event to which all of our members and friends are cordially invited - a thank you and a celebration. Something which, a year ago, would have been inconceivable.



Preparing for the handover of the keys at Scifleet Toyota on Friday 4th December.

**THE PUBLIC LAUNCHING OF THE NEW UTILITY VEHICLE OF THE MEN OF THE TREES
BY ROSS MCKINNON, CURATOR OF THE MT COOT-THA BOTANIC GARDENS,
WILL TAKE PLACE IN KING GEORGE SQUARE ON FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY AT 12.00 NOON.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

AN EVENING WITH BARBARA CARSELDINE

On Friday night, the 14th August, MOTT members met at Marion's for gourmet pizza and sweets. This was merely a prelude for the main course, a talk by Barbara Carseldine, author, educator, film-maker and rainmaker.

After a brief introduction about her earlier history, Barbara shared with us her experiences and understanding of the relationship between people and rain. A pivotal point in her life occurred while researching a screenplay for a comedy set in the outback. While visiting Peter Dickson in the parched Beaudesert area, and sharing his stories, he said to his son, "We'll make rain." About forty minutes after a thirty second chant, it bucketed down. Thus ended the interview. Barbara said, "This was a life-changing experience; it frightened the pants off me!" She took time out to rethink everything. It took twelve years to finish her screenplay.

Barbara's involvement with aboriginal people grew when she was approached by three aunties from west of Alice Springs who were renowned rainmakers, "water-women." They asked her to form an indigenous production company. "Elders choose you; you don't choose them." Through her artistic endeavours, they hoped that their life and the life of

the land would be improved. "If you paint the country, the country will be healthy."

Barbara then shared stories of people around the world who have experienced rainmaking. Her "string theory" and the twenty-eight cartons of materials locked up in Canberra were intriguing. Canadians eating clouds; the Seminoles with their powerful sweat lodge ceremonies; Chief Archie's message of forgiveness for the good of Mother Earth; dancing in the dust in Jordan; Jeff and Nadia Lawton and water harvesting; Masaru Emoto and "The Power of Water;" angels of leaks.

Some scientifically based references were made. Hugh Lovell, an agronomist; "Visualize your own farm; know where the rain clouds come from; what the smell is like, what it feels like, what the vibration is like." Reference was made to Quantum Physics here. Organization of cells for rainmaking. Tree lines in the brigalow always receiving more rain than cleared areas. Tipping points; spiral energy; if trees are planted in certain patterns it sends air higher, increasing the possibility of rain.

All in all, a fascinating presentation, leaving us with much to ponder and more research to do.

Pat Peek

(MOTT volunteers met Barbara at our National Tree Day planting at Keperra, when she came to help us get all those trees into the ground. The title of her book is *Creating a Culture with a Reverence for Water.*)

MASAYO KANEKO

Wonderful MOTT volunteer from Japan. Worked with us over the year, employing all methods of transport to reach us each Saturday at our many geographically diverse planting sites.

Masayo worked quietly, but like a Trojan, and her winning smile and laughter was always to the fore, cheering on our activities. Before returning to Japan in December, Masayo travelled to Cambodia to visit and bring gifts to an orphanage there, and our Saturday MOTTs were privileged to be able to give some assistance for this compassionate project.



Thank you, Masayo, for choosing our organisation for your voluntary work while in Australia. Now your going has left a gap in our team, and we miss you. Your card and letter sent from your home in Japan were enjoyed by us at our Christmas luncheon. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. We wish you well in your future life and career, and hope that somewhere, sometime, we may, (all of us, including your many children, the trees you planted), meet with you again.

Masayo and Fran enjoying an after-planting moment with our youngest volunteer

MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE – JANUARY TO JUNE 2010
Always check with coordinator or Fran (3851 0858) for possible changes.
Bushcare 9am to 12:30 or 1pm We share morning tea around 10:30 am

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
January Friday-15 th 12 noon-	Launch of Ute at King George Square- Please arrive by 11:30 a.m. to help with organizing. i.e putting up signs, setting table with brochures, memberships, schedules, (drinks?) and whatever	Scott, Marion,Gerry, Jan R.,Jeff, Fran
16 th Mt. Coot-tha Gdns- 7:20 for 7:30 departure	Trip to the Scenic Rim??? Let me know ASAP if you are interested in a trip to the Scenic Rim SO WE CAN PLAN IT TOGETHER – i.e. Donkey Farm, Lake Moogerah or Lake Maroon with magical mountains surrounding-Tamborine or Ipswich Nature Reserve.???????	Fran 3851 0858
23rd	Keperra Picnic Grounds, Samford Rd./Upper Kedron	Kerry, Marion, Fran
30th	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd. UBD 177, N9	Kerry – 3289 9206
February 6th	Behind Trevor's home, 1692 (corner) Mt. Samson & Old Mt. Samson Rd., Closeburn	Kerry – 3289 9206
13th	Paten Park, 57 Paten Rd., the Gap UBD 158, A3 Near the Boy Scout Hall	Marion 3366 1448
20 th	Duck Pond , Bardon Esplanade,Bardon UBD 158,K6	Marion 3366 1448
27th	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
March 6 th	Paten Park, 57 Paten Rd., the Gap UBD 158, A3 Near the Boy Scout Hall	Marion 3366 1448
13th	Cedar Creek behind Police station, Tramway St. Ferny Grove Plant Harpulia Pendula inside fence area (near railway tracks)	Kerry, Marion
20th	108 Oatlands Cr., Wights Mountain, Samford Valley (UBD pg. 106, F18 to C19) Wights Mt. Rd becomes Smiths Rd. > Oatlands Court on LHS-end of Court - Driveway on RHS- new planting	John Gray – 3289 1462 Gerry – 3300 1615
27th	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
April 3rd	Easter Weekend	
10th	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd. UBD 177, N9	Kerry – 3289 9206
17th	Extension of Girl Guide Hut area, Coolibah St. creek side, Bardon, UBD 158, L5	Marion 3366 1448
24th	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
Apr. 30- May 1 Meet at Mt Coot-tha Gdns 8 a.m.	Killarney- Bush care group would love to have us join them for planting and picnic. Will probably join us for other activities...environmental& historical. Let's go up on Friday for an over-nighter and see the breathtaking countryside etc .More info later	Susan Savage 4664 4074 Fran – 3851 0858
May 8th	Extension of Girl Guide Hut area, Coolibah St. creek side, Bardon, UBD 158, L5	Marion – 3366 1448
15th	Behind Trevor's home, 1692 (corner) Mt. Samson & Old Mt. Samson Rd., Closeburn	Kerry – 3289 9206
22nd	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
29th	"The Winter Weeding", Dawn Road Reserve	Adam – 0437 439 774
June 5th	Keperra Picnic Grounds, Samford Rd./Upper Kedron	Kerry, Fran, Marion
12th	Extension of Girl Guide Hut area, Coolibah St. creek side, Bardon, UBD 158, L5	Marion 3366 1448
19 th	Looking at properties around Laidley? Bring picnic lunch	Jeff- 3869 2084 Mob.-0405 182 796
26th	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

TREE QUIZ ANSWERS BY REX CALLAHAN

1. THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL TOO FAR FROM THE TREE
2. CHERRY TREE CAROL
3. ON A TREE BY A RIVER, A LITTLE TOM TIT
4. THERE IS A LINDEN TREE IN YONDER VALLEY
5. I TALK TO THE TREES
6. A THOUSAND TREES
7. BENEATH THE BURNING TREE
8. BLACK HORSE AND THE CHERRY TREE
9. FAKE PLASTIC TREES
10. FEED THE TREE
11. NEW LOVE GROWS ON TREES
12. OI SHOT A RABBIT UP A TREE
13. ONE TREE HILL
14. ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
15. SHADOWS AND TALL TREES
16. SHAKING THE TREE
17. THORN TREE IN THE GARDEN
18. TWO SILVER TREES
19. LEMON TREE, VERY PRETTY
20. A TREE IS A TREE

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