



## 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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## ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The business of MOTT continued during the 2006/7 financial year with work schedules undertaken most Saturday mornings and a couple of field excursions organised during January.

As usual it has been the regular toilers undertaking the work, and organising the schedule which prompted the comment that there was a need to introduce some fresh faces into the organization.

Given our past inability to firstly attract and secondly to retain new members, I suggested that we unincorporate Men of the Trees (Qld) Inc. and become a volunteer bushcare group under the auspices of Habitat Brisbane or Pine Rivers Shire.

This was met with a spirited defence of maintaining status quo, but with the added realisation that we need to do something if MOTT was to survive. That something took the form of a planning session in early March which was facilitated for us by Pam Usher of Greening Australia.

About 15 members participated, and an action plan was developed which was considered by the management committee and subsequently approved for adoption. Like previous strategic plans prepared for MOTT, it requires a strong commitment from the executive and members of the management committee to fully implement its fourteen or so actions.

While this may appear a little daunting at first glance, it seems to me that by making headway on a couple of the major actions, to some extent the rest will fall into line. We need a place to start and my suggestion that this should be in the areas of marketing and on ground project planning still stands.

My earlier call for a volunteer to take up the marketing challenge has so far not borne fruit. I still see this as the key to reversing MOTT's fortunes.

On the issue of planning, I have since prepared a template which will allow us to assess projects and evaluate both the amount of work involved and the timing of its implementation. This data can be incorporated into our regular Saturday schedule so that we know what we are going to be doing on any particular work day. It is my belief that we can gain

organisational momentum if we are more effective with the commencing/ running and completion of projects.

I have also made considerable progress on a database which captures Neil Thyer's summation of our records since 2000, the hours of work performed, the trees planted, member and other volunteer attendance etc. The purpose of this is as a means to communicate our performance should we again be in a position to seek project funding.

Susan has also been reviewing our membership records with a view to ascertaining our long term supporters so that we might better communicate our activities to these people.

One of the side issues with the discussions about unincorporation was that we were spending about \$500 per annum to audit an expenditure of around \$2500. The upshot of this was that through the representations of Pam Usher we were introduced to the services of a group who undertake voluntary audits for environmental organizations such as ourselves. Hopefully this will further enhance MOTT's financial position.

It is with regret that I report that Kevin Harte has recently resigned as our treasurer as the result of a change of personal circumstances which sees him commuting to work from Byron Bay each week. Kevin will not be lost to the environment however, as he has been snapped up by a local group. I thank Kevin for his efforts as our treasurer, and wish him and Sharon all the best for their new life south of the border.

On a final note I confirm that I will not be seeking election as president of MOTT for the 2007/2008 financial year, nor will I be nominating for the management committee. I believe that MOTT needs somebody new at the helm with the time and ideas to drive our strategic plan forward.

I will continue to be a member of MOTT however, and will be involved as a technical adviser/periodic worker should these services be required.

I thank all of you who have supported my presidency over the past seven years.

Jim Dale

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Men of the Trees will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at Fran's place: 9 Lynwood Court, Ferny Hills at 12.30pm. Lunch will be provided.

Every ordinary member, life member or honorary member present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote. No members shall be entitled to vote unless all subscriptions presently payable to the Association have been paid. A member entitled to vote at a meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy and such person need not be a member of the Association. A proxy form accompanies this notice.

### Agenda:

1. To receive the report of the Management Committee, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the year ending 30 June 2007.
2. To receive the Auditor's report on the books and accounts for the same period.
3. To appoint the new Auditor.
4. To elect new Office Bearers and other members of the Management Committee
5. **To vote on the following Motion:** that Men of the Trees Qld Inc change its name, with new name to be decided on at the discretion of management committee.

### The Men of the Trees Inc PROXY FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2007 and any adjournment thereof.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2007 Member: \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish my proxy to vote for / against the proposed Motion on the Agenda that MOTT Qld change its name, with new name to be decided on at the discretion of management committee.**

Please lodge the signed proxy form with the Secretary PO Box 283 Clayfield Qld 4011 by Friday 24 August 2007.

### The Men of the Trees Inc NOMINATION FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ being a member of the Men of the Trees Inc

hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

for the election of \_\_\_\_\_

*(Insert President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Management Committee Member)*

and I, \_\_\_\_\_ also being a member of the Association hereby second that nomination.

Signature of nominating member \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby consent to the above nomination for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

*(insert position)*

Signature of nominated member \_\_\_\_\_ / /2007

The signed nomination form shall be lodged with the Secretary PO Box 283 Clayfield Qld 4011 at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting.

## MORE BIG TREES



On 20th January, the week following our successful Jimna expedition, the group of intrepid MOTT big tree enthusiasts again set out in search of giants. Our adventure this time found us exploring the beautiful Mapleton State Forest, soon to become a National Park.

After a glorious drive up the Maleny Range, through Montville and Flaxton, the group met at the Lillyponds with our enthusiastic guide, Mapleton resident and friend of MOTT, Peter Richards. Following the obligatory evaluation of the local coffee shop with a thumbs up for amazing speed of service, Peter and a friendly neighbour along for the ride led us on the short drive to the entrance to the Mapleton forest.

Even from the road we were amazed by the grandeur of many huge Flooded Gums. Our walk revealed the forest to be characterised by these large eucalypts where they surrounded and penetrated the rainforest. Peter told us that "much of the timber used to support the rails for the sugarcane trains of the Sunshine Coast was cut in the Mapleton State Forest", and evidence abounds of this slaughter and dissection of forest giants. The gargantuan race is thankfully not extinct, however, and as is to be expected, one among the Flooded Gum tribe stood out for us as clearly the leader in size, perhaps age and magnificence.

Peter had chosen two large rainforest trees for our appreciation along the track through the forest. The first was an enormous Brown Pine, with a three metre gbh (girth at breast height). The elegant folds of its trunk supported an elevated canopy, providing habitat for a rich community of resident plants and animal life. Further along Peter spied his other giant, an awesome White Beech hiding a little off the track. The tree's impressive dimensions – 4.7 metres gbh – aroused feelings of excitement and privilege and reverence and we spent quite a while under its spell, surrounding it,

photographing it and absorbing its atmosphere. When we eventually tore ourselves away, we did so only to be captured by an almost equally impressive strangler fig. Our track formed part of the Great Walks trail covering the east coast of Australia and only just weathering the temptation to disappear forever along such an escape route to paradise. We returned instead by the way we had come, back to the cars, the town and a delightful lunch with ocean views at the Mapleton Hotel.

The day was wound up in a very pleasant manner, especially for the woodies amongst us, when Peter took us on a grand tour of his home, with its beautiful gardens and views, and also his immaculately tidy and well appointed workshop. His exquisite woodwork ranges from the minutely delicate to large furniture items such as beds and chests of drawers. And all of Mapleton and its visitors are familiar with his large carved black cockatoo, which has been roosting outside the local doctor's surgery in the main street for 18 years!

Peter is also a skilful computer man, providing us not only with the expedition itself, but also with much descriptive and photographic material by email and on disk. This will remain a record and project resource for years to come. Thank you Peter for a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring day and for your continuing contributions!

Marion Goward



## Men of the Trees Schedule – July to November 2007

Check with Fran (3851 0858) for possible changes

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.

*Please try to bring several litres of water to each planting in order to help care for our plantings during this drought.*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<b>July</b> 21 <sup>st</sup>	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St. Kenmore	Kerry... 3289 9206
28 <sup>th</sup>	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah St. creek side... Bardon ... NATIONAL TREE DAY Planting in cooperation with Planet Ark... friends and Greening Australia Vols. joining us	Marion.... 3366 1448 (Fran .....3851 0858)
<b>Aug</b> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah St. creek side... Bardon ...	Marion .... 3366 1448
11 <sup>th</sup>	Paten Creek. Weeding morning glory, 57 Paten Rd. Paten Creek, The Gap	The Team
18 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Creek- behind Police Station Tramway St., Ferny Grove	Kerry – 3289 9206 Fleur – 3407 0818 Mob. 0417 649 980
25 <sup>th</sup>	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr. , Ferny Hills (Wightman Reserve near children's playground)	Adam & Sonya - 3480 6745 Fran 3851 0858
<b>Sept</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>	Duck Pond - New Planting? Bardon Esplanade, Bardon	Marion – 3366 1448
8 <sup>th</sup>	Duck Pond - New Planting? Bardon Esplanade, Bardon	Marion – 3366 1448
15 <sup>th</sup>	Dick Cribb, Sight # 2 77 Wooley St., Taringa	Dick Cribb - 3371 3185 & Marion 3366 1448
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gold's Scrub, Gold's Scrub Rd. Samsonvale	Laura –3902 4448 or Angie—3902 4412 or Carole –3379 1453
29 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station, Tramway St.Ferny Grove.	Kerry ...3289 9205 Tristan..0416 478 615
<b>Oct</b> 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bardon Bowling Club Bowman Pde., Bardon	Marion.... 3366 1448
13 <sup>th</sup>	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah St. creek side... Bardon	Marion.... 3366 1448
20 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Dr. , Ferny Hills (Wightman Reserve near children's playground)	Adam & Sonya 3480 6745 Fran 3851 0858

### **KENMORE ACTS TO SAVE ENDANGERED BIRDWING BUTTERFLY**

The Church of the Holy Spirit at Kenmore is participating in a new and exciting community project to save the beautiful Richmond Birdwing butterfly from extinction.

Early historians writing about the new colony on the banks of the Brisbane River recorded masses of beautiful, large, iridescent green butterflies along the then pristine banks of the river. A few years ago it was recognized by entomologists that this lovely butterfly was becoming extremely rare because of the disappearance of rainforest habitats for its only lowland food source, the *Purastolochia praeconosa* vine.

Recently drought conditions have caused more losses of vines from the original range of the butterfly in coastal areas roughly between Gympie and Grafton. Fractured and isolated pockets of remaining habitat and reduction in butterfly numbers has also caused inbreeding – further weakening its chances of survival.

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Western suburbs resident, Dr Don Sands OAM, a world-renowned entomologist and researcher, has formed the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network (RBRN), involving community groups and individuals to plant food vines in an attempt to recreate linking corridors to halt the demise of the butterfly. The project has attracted funding and RBRN is now an incorporated body, with active members propagating, raising, planting and maintaining the food vines, with careful recording, monitoring and documentation of the various sites (private land links, public land stations and corridors). The vines need carefully chosen planting sites which should never completely dry out, with suitable companion plantings (for climbing, for nectar and for the butterflies to pupate on). The rather insignificant flowers of the vine have to be pollinated by a particular midge, the seeds for vine regeneration are pushed into the soil as the Brush Turkeys strip the flesh from the fruit and the newly emerging caterpillars need a prolific source of young vine leaves to eat and grow.

Over thirty vines have been planted on church grounds on the banks of Gubberley Creek (mostly below the rectory), with plans for more to be planted further downstream. Gubberley Creek is part of the bigger Cubberla/Witton Creeks Catchment Network – with active community participation.

Our parish is grateful to The Men of the Trees, who have been working with us since the year 2000 to remove weeds and rehabilitate our section of the creek, with close to 1,000 plantings already creating a beautiful, peaceful area on our grounds for both wildlife and humans to enjoy. In a year or so we will be watching for that flash of green iridescence again – from established breeding sites in Mt Coot-tha and other Western Suburbs areas – and what excitement there will be if they settle down and lay some eggs on our vines!

Anne Stone OA

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## DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO SALINITY AROUND AUSTRALIA

Natural Heritage Issue No 30 focused on Dryland Salinity. The issue highlights the fact that different approaches are needed for different regions.

In Western Australia salinity is being tackled, new industries will be born and jobs will be created. This is a massive initiative considering the challenge of developing a fully commercial venture in the face of low rainfall and sandy soils. Already six million Maritime Pine, Sandalwood and Eucalyptus seedlings have been planted. Hardy trees like Sugar gum and sandalwood have been chosen for the project because they lower the water tables. These species also have proven ability to deliver commercial returns in medium rainfall areas. Strategically located tree crops aim to allow farmers to carry on their core stock and crop activities alongside the tree crops. Certain species will reduce hillside seep and another species will absorb the saline water and prevent the areas spreading. WA MOTT has been active in experimental planting to offset salinity for more than 20 years.

South Australia has devised an interception scheme in the Bookpurnong irrigation district, 10 kilometres north of Loxton. The scheme involves drilling bore holes into the aquifer, equipping these with pumps, connecting to a pipeline and transferring saline groundwater to a more remote and more secure location. The results are twofold - salinity reduction in the River Murray and protection of the floodplain from saline intrusion, which has allowed new floodplain recovery initiatives to be trialed.

Turning seawater into fresh water using only solar energy sounds nothing short of miraculous. A technology demonstration in northern Victoria is

showing this transformation can become a reality. If successful, fresh water produced using sustainable energy with zero greenhouse emissions, together with concentrated salt solution for production of commercial salt will boost the economic viability of salinity mitigation schemes.

In Queensland's Lockyer Valley there is a demonstration in a salt pan area. A rehabilitation field trial has already been developed with 1,000 native trees plus drainage and irrigation. There are nine different treatment sites. One site is an agro forestry demonstration with examples of trees adapted to saline and water-logged environments, a riparian zone with a river management and development demonstration area and a marsh site with an arboretum of water logging tolerant trees. This demonstration centre will show how to reclaim saline land and put salty water to good use.

Every state has its own specific problems which are being addressed in a variety of ways. In the Yass River Valley of southern NSW there are examples of fencing treeless hill tops with high recharge potential and establishing trees to reduce the recharge and amount of deep drainage to the lower flats. Remnant vegetation is linked with corridors and fenced to exclude stock. Wood lots are planted with mixed species all of which have the capacity to provide timber with high quality characteristics. There are many more examples of the variety of projects being undertaken to combat dryland salinity to be found in the Journal of the Natural Heritage Trust, No. 30, summer 2006.

## **COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

If you are interested in the future of MOTT Qld why not serve a term on the management committee? Meetings are held approximately six times a year, when we meet to discuss the progress of MOTT and possible ideas for the future – no hard physical labour involved! 😊

The following executive positions will need to be filled at the next AGM: President, Treasurer and Secretary. We also need regular committee members who can help with the day to day administration decisions for the organisation.

If you are interested in serving on the committee please come along to the AGM as we will be taking nominations from the floor on the day or, for further information, please phone Jim on 3263 5713 or Fran on 3851 0858

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

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

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