



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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PROJECTS FOR 2003

The Saturday morning group is spreading its influence a little further in 2003, by contributing its services to other group projects in Pine Rivers Shire. The first of these was an experimental planting in conjunction with Dayboro Landcare on the property of Dennis Rouse to ascertain what species might be suitable for future commercial plantings along the creek flats in this area.

Unfortunately the day selected for the first planting was probably the hottest one for the year, which left our members more wilted than the trees. A marauding tick attached itself to Kerry Walker during the planting, and laid her very low for few days after, much to Dennis' embarrassment when he was eventually told what had happened.

Another is the South Pine River Rehabilitation Project that is currently sponsored by the Pine Rivers Catchment Association and Kumbartcho Sanctuary. This project seeks to rehabilitate about seven kilometres of the South Pine River banks upstream from Cash's Crossing upstream. The work is occurring at a series of discrete sites with local volunteers co-opted to assist at their local site. MOTT's ongoing role has yet to be fully determined, as most of the work occurs during the working weekdays (rather than Saturdays).

This is a good project for MOTT to become involved with as it has a high community profile, and is set to make a major positive impact on the environment of this particular reach of the river which will eventually support part of the Shires' recreational trails network. Another benefit is that all of the project organisation has already been done.

In passing, I would mention that I visited Gold's Scrub earlier this year to take some pictures for the completion report required by NHT for the grant (\$5,600) that we obtained in 1997. I was most impressed with the state of the 'Scrub' which to my not uncritical view had 'turned the corner' as far as recovery for weed infestation goes.

Regular monitoring from this point should ensure that the scrub can eventually be rid of the scourge of the climbing weeds that once threatened its existence.

As far as NHT projects go I think that the funding body can be well satisfied with both the present state of the scrub and the ongoing commitment by MOTT to maintaining the integrity of this important remnant.

Jim Dale

NEWS AROUND THE STATES

West Australia

MOTT is holding its annual Festival of Trees on Saturday 29 March. The theme for 2003 is MICROCLIMATES. Not unexpectedly trees are the most significant factor in providing exactly the right living zone for most of the planet's terrestrial organisms.

Organisations participating have been invited to consider the theme as they prepare their displays, demonstrations and talks for the Festival of Trees.

WA MOTT has developed a **Carbon Neutral Program*** with working partnerships formed with McInerny Ford, Greening Australia and the RAC (Royal Automobile Club).

The first planting was mid year 2002.

South Australia

Trees for Life continues to go from strength to strength. As well as the long established Tree scheme there is an active Bushcarer programme that performs through Bush Action Teams. These teams operate on a one-day basis, mid-week and long weekend trips.

Trees for life is fortunate to have a paid staff of 17 members and at least 20 Bush for Life regional coordinators.

One project of interest is the Big Gum. In its 4th year this revegetation project is centred at Hahndorf and is planting red river gums, *E. camaldulensis*, on The Cedars. Sir Hans Heysen owned this property. His paintings of these Big Gums immortalised them.

NSW

MOTT works with Conservation Volunteers and Greening Australia Their major project on the Hawkesbury River will be revisited in April and

May this year. This project has received funding from the Natural Heritage Trust over a number of years.

Many of their plants have been raised at their nursery at Cattai.

From UK – International Tree Foundation.

The emphasis is on Overseas aid and funding from ITF has assisted Harvest Help. A UK based charity Harvest Help has helped farmers in the Masaiti region of Zambia to establish their own nurseries. This enables them to earn a living, feed their families and improve the local environment.

The Sussex branch of ITF continues to support tree nurseries in Rwanda, helping vulnerable and marginalised people to produce trees for themselves and their community.

Some of the UK branches have adopted a specific overseas project in addition to continuing their local projects.

The appointment of CEO Kay Sexton in 2002 has injected renewed vigour into ITF. There have been 130 new members in the past 6 months with increased publicity for the activities of the organisation.

CARBON NEUTRAL PROGRAM

This is an initiative of Men of the Trees WA (Inc). The program offers the opportunity for government departments, private corporations and individuals to offset the carbon dioxide produced through the use of their vehicles, by paying an annual membership to Carbon Neutral to plant trees. The governor of WA launched Carbon Neutral on 22 April 2002. Carbon Neutral benefits landcare, the climate and the biosphere.

LEAF MOULD

From Barrie Oldfield, President of WA MOTT comes this information.

Make leaf mould. This is quite different from compost. Dead leaves are broken down by fungi in contrast to compost that attracts bacteria to get to work.

The advice is to rake all fallen leaves into a heap that must be in intimate contact with the natural soil. It helps to have the heap under the shade of a tree but open to receive rain in a good season. Don't water the heap.

This is a one-purpose heap for making leaf mould. It is for fallen leaves not green leaves or prunings. Good luck!

MEN OF THE TREES ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
MARCH				
1		Taringa Parade opposite Equinox Street next to bike entrance .. up the hill ... near the Freeway	Removal of succulent plants and planting native grasses. Bring plastic bags. <i>Morning tea will be provided.</i>	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
8	9.00am	Terror's Creek Habitat. Mt Mee Road, opposite old sawmill, Dayboro	Planting – Morning Tea will be provided. Bring water and some tools.	Denis Rouse 3425 1262 or 0428 786 020 or Fran 3851 0858
15		Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Road, Kenmore	Weed Plant and water mulch, if possible. Bring tools.	Kerry W 3289 9205 Anne S
22		Gold's Scrub, Lake Samsonvale.	Weeding to assist natural revegetation. Morning tea and lunch provided.	Donna 3902 4416 Carole 3425 1527
29		Terror's Creek Habitat. Mt Mee Road, opposite old sawmill, Dayboro.	Planting – Bring water and tools.	Denis Rouse 3425 1262 or 0428 786 020 or Fran 3851 0858
APRIL				
5		Bowling Club, Bowman Parade, Bardon	Tree planting.	Marion 3366 1448
12		Terror's Creek Habitat. Mt Mee Road, opposite old sawmill, Dayboro	Planting – Bring water and tools	Denis Rouse 3425 1262 or 0428 786 020 or Fran 3851 0858
19	Easter Holiday Weekend			
26		Gubberley Creek	Tree Planting	Kerry 3289 9205
MAY				
3		Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Road, Kenmore	Planting	Kerry W 3289 9205 Anne Stone
10		Paten Creek, The Gap	Maintenance	Hugh 3378 5340 Peter 3848 3521
17		Townhouse Site, Bowman Pde, Bardon	Tree planting	Marion 3366 1448
24		Gold's Scrub, Lake Samsonvale	Weeding to assist regeneration	Donna 3902 4416 Carole 3425 1527
31		Cedar Creek	Planting, weeding	Andrew 3851 0118 Tristan 3351 1930
JUNE				
7		Taringa Pde opposite Equinox Street next to bike entrance .. up the hill ... near the Freeway	Removal of succulent plants and planting native grasses. Bring plastic bags. <i>Morning tea will be provided.</i>	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
14		Paten Creek, The Gap	Maintenance	Hugh and Peter
21		Free Spot		
28	9.00am	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Road, Kenmore	Planting	Kerry W 3289 9205 Anne Stone

SALINITY REVISITED

The March 2000 edition of Twahamwe featured an article on dryland salinity. Measures being undertaken in NSW were described. The 2002 summer issue of Natural Heritage features Salinity discussing both dryland and irrigation salinity. It is timely to bring to members' attention to some up to date facts.

Salinity is a major threat. As expressed in Natural Heritage the challenge is the need to address the problem now, a problem that may not become a reality for decades.

The following information is extracted from the summer issue of Natural Heritage.

What causes salinity?

Salinity may occur naturally or be caused by human action. Increases in salinity are usually caused by a rise in the level of underground water tables bringing naturally occurring salt to the surface where it is concentrated.

In dryland salinity the salt brought to the soil surface remains and becomes progressively concentrated as the water evaporates or is used by the plants. One of the main causes for rising water tables is the removal of deep rooted plants, especially perennial trees, shrubs and native grasses and their replacement by annual crops and pastures that do not use much water.

Irrigation salinity occurs when irrigation water soaks through the soil area where the plant roots grow, adding to the existing water. The additional irrigation water causes the underground water table to rise, bringing salts to the surface. When the irrigated area dries the

underground water table recedes, salt is left on the surface soil. Each time the area is irrigated the salinity process is repeated.

Both processes of salinity can increase the dissolved salts entering adjoining rivers and streams.

Manipulation of rivers, dams and lakes can also increase waterway salinity by changing natural surface water and groundwater flows.

Queensland is not as affected by salinity as States further down the Murray-Darling Basin. An estimated 48,000 hectares of land in Queensland are affected by induced salinity. Irrigated areas round Emerald, Bundaberg, Mareeba, Ayr, Proserpine and Theodore have localised areas of salinity. Poor quality irrigation has led to salinity problems in the Lockyer Valley and on the Darling Downs.

Education about salinity and sustainable natural resource management is taking place in schools in the affected areas. Landcare groups are doing extensive work fencing off remnant vegetation, establishing native pastures, dispersing grazing pressures and planting trees.

Around the states many projects are underway. These range from tree planting to conserving remnant vegetation. Rehabilitation and protection are the main thrusts. Moving west the greatest environmental found in Western Australia which has the largest area of dryland salinity in Australia, an estimated area of 4.3 million hectares representing 16 percent of the south west region.

CAT'S CLAW ATTACK

Cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) smothers and kills native vegetation. MOTT members know it well at the Gold's Scrub site.

In the Summer 2002 edition of *The Regenerator* it was reported that the Moggill Creek Catchment Group discovered a serious infestation of this environmental weed threatening the biodiversity of Brisbane Forest Park.

The Group joined with the property owner in an effort to eradicate the creeper. On discovering other infestations a pattern of dispersal merged in line with the prevailing winds.

Priority was given to removing seed sources high in the trees before cutting and poisoning lower parts of the vine.

The project has been successful and demonstrates the need for a weed strategy focusing on major infestations when seeking to control environmental weeds. Early detection and planned subsequent action are the key to success. It may not be possible to eliminate weeds but groups can try to stop them spreading.

Further information on eradicating cat's claw creeper can be obtained from Adrian Webb on 3373 2686.

From The Regenerator, Summer 2002

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

A reminder to all members. MOTT has tax deductibility status for donations greater than \$2.00. The cheque for such donations should be made out to:

The Men of the Trees (Queensland) Public Environment Gift Fund.

An official receipt will be issued for donations.

Note that MOTT is unable to check the accuracy of all articles contributed to the newsletter. They are accepted in good faith and are printed for the information of MOTT members, but do not necessarily represent the views of MOTT Queensland or its committee.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEN OF THE TREES Inc

PO BOX 283 CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

Name:

Address:

Telephone (home):..... (work):.....

How would you like to participate?

(Please tick square)

- Tree planting and maintenance
- Helping on stalls, shows, etc
- Public speaking
- Help organise activities
- Propagate trees
- Drive helpers to plantings
- Financial support only
- Technical advice
- Newsletter
- Other (attach)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are due on May 1 each year.

The subscription fees are:

- FAMILY OR CORPORATE \$30
- SINGLE \$20
- STUDENT \$12

Please select the appropriate remittance from below:

JOINING MONTH	SINGLE MEMBER	FAMILY OR CORPORATE	STUDENT/; PENSIONER
MAY-AUG	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$12.00
SEP-DEC	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$8.00
JAN-APR	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$4.00

Plus \$5 Joining Fee

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