



## 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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[www.menofthetrees.org.au](http://www.menofthetrees.org.au)

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## MEN OF THE TREES ACT LOCALLY

### TARINGA PARADE

The wedge of land bordered by Taringa Parade, the bike path and the Western Freeway, having been cleared of just about every known succulent, is showing signs of recovering its natural open dry forest aspect. Hundreds of naturally occurring grasses and shrubs have been planted over a period of about two years. Since the rain some regeneration of the existing trees has been noticed.

Some local people started the daunting project but it is continuing work of a dedicated and delightful group of Men of the Trees under the inspirational guidance of Fran Gilje that is ensuring the success of the project.

Pam Rudder

### CABBAGE TREE CREEK, FERNY HILLS

Pine Rivers Council has supplied the mulch and quick coupling valve. Members of MOTT Saturday planting group have planted about 500 trees on the creek over the past couple of years in order to create a wildlife habitat that was destroyed during recent house construction. This month (March) we added additional 80 trees and removed 26 Chinese elm and a few other invasive weeds. The creek bank looks great once again.

Fran Gilje.

### CEDAR CREEK BUSHCARE SITE

Men of the Trees have been helping revegetate this site for the past two years and have helped achieve significant progress. They work with members of the Bushcare group and horticulture students from Groveley TAFE. In August 2003 an excavator removed a large Madeira vine infested creek bank and MOTT have assisted in planting up this excavated area. Future plans for the site include a native bush tucker display garden.

Tristan Peach

More reports from the Saturday planting group will appear in the next issues of Twahamwe. These will include action at Gubberley Creek and Ithaca Creek

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## MEN OF THE TREES HERE AND THERE

Congratulations to WA Men of the Trees! They are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of their Branch.

In the special edition of WA MOTT news we read –

“Twenty five years of voluntary service in Western Australia and eight million trees to their credit. This outstanding achievement by Men of the Trees shows just how effective a good idea can be.

The Society began in Africa in 1922 and reached Australia in 1979 when its founder, Richard St Barbe Baker, visited Perth. From their very first plantings the WA membership aimed to make a significant impact on the landscape to help redress the effects of clearing. They planted thousands of trees at a time.

### **IN JUST TEN WEEKS....**

Tree planting is a winter job. In WA's semi-arid country trees are planted in the ten-week period mid-May to early August. Survival is what counts, not just the numbers planted. Over the years Men of the Trees have refined their planting techniques, convinced that further improvement is always possible.

### **DECISION TO STAND ALONE**

In order to stand alone the society established two major nurseries at Hazelmere and Rockingham. Operated by volunteers, both are now of such a high standard that they have each accreditation by the Nursery and Garden Industry Association. For several years the Rockingham nursery has also supplied plants to Kings Park and Bold Park.”

Men of the Trees recognised the need to build mutual understanding between farmers and city folk through personal relationships. The concept of linking urban and rural families in tree growing partnerships through the Farm Tree Help Scheme was born.”

As well as two nurseries WA MOTT has initiated the Million Trees Program through schools, The Children's Forest, the Carbon Neutral Program, the Amery Acres Tree Farm Project (adding rock dust and mulch to degraded soils) and operate an active seed collection program.

An opening event to this year of celebrations was a breakfast in Kings Park for as many of the founding members as they could trace. On 27 March the annual Festival of Trees was held at St Barbe Grove, the major nursery.

There is also a special labelling of a Margaret River wine – ‘St Barbe Shiraz’.

## MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE 2004

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
April 3	9.00am – 12.00pm	Ithaca Creek Bowman Parade, Bardon	Weeding and maintenance	Marion 3366 1448
April 10	9.00am – 12.00pm	Gubberley Creek Gubberley Street, Kenmore	Weeding, planting and watering trees	Kerry 3289 9206
April 17	9.00am – 12.00pm	Taringa Pde, opposite Equinox St, next to bike entrance. up the hill .. near the Freeway	Removal of succulent plants and planting native grasses. Bring plastic bags. Morning tea will be provided.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
April 24	9.00am – 12.00pm	Cedar Creek – behind the Police Station at Ferny Grove	Planting and weeding.	Tristan 3351 1930
May 1	9.00am – 12.30pm	Bardon Esplanade (82 Bowman Parade is the meeting place)	Weeding, planting and mulching.	Marion 3366 1448
May 8	9.00am – 12.00pm	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Road, Kenmore	Weed, plant and water, mulch if possible. Bring tools.	Kerry 3289 9205 Anne 2278 4115
May 15	9.00am – 12.00pm	Taringa Pde, opposite Equinox St, next to bike entrance. up the hill .. near the Freeway	Removal of succulent plants and planting native grasses. Bring plastic bags. Morning tea will be provided.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
May 22	8.30am	Gold's Scrub, Gold Scrub Road, Dayboro	Weeding and revegetation.	Donna 3902 4416 Carole 3425 1527
May 29	9.00am – 12.00pm	FREE SPOT		
June 5	9.00am – 12.00pm	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley Street, Kenmore.	Weeding, planting and watering trees.	Kerry 3289 9206
June 12	9.00am – 12.00pm	Cedar Creek – behind the Police Station at Ferny Grove	Planting and weeding.	Tristan 3351 1930
June 19	9.00am – 12.00pm	Taringa Pde, opposite Equinox St, next to bike entrance. up the hill .. near the Freeway	Removal of succulent plants and planting native grasses. Bring plastic bags. Morning tea will be provided.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
June 26	9.00am – 12.00pm	Girl Guide Hut, Coolibah Street, Bardon.	Tree planting and mulching.	Marion 3366 1448

### WELWITSCHA – A TREE WITHOUT A TRUNK



Edward Parker came across this ancient survivor of the Namib Desert in Africa in 1999. He describes this weird and wonderful plant as the closest thing to an extraterrestrial life form as he would expect.

The plants only exist in the gravel plains of the northern Namib Desert. It does not look like a plant at all, rather like some bizarre creature, which will scuttle away at any moment. Regarded as a living fossil it is a link with the prehistoric flora of the super continent Gondwanaland that existed millions of years ago.

From a subterranean 'trunk' a crown of dishevelled foliage spreads out across the desert surface. The greenish brown leaves, which become broad, leathery and heavily ribbed, can reach a length of four metres.

Highly adapted to the harsh environment in which it survives one of its strategies is that is unpalatable. It is a tree to marvel at, not because it has any uses to medicine or industry but because it is one of the most remarkable plants that graces our planet.

### 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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