



## 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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Volume XXVI

Number 1

March Edition 2005

### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The Men of the Trees started in Kenya in July 1922. Richard St Barbe Baker was a forester there who saw the potential problems which would emerge as a result of the gangs of tree cutters and World War I veterans clearing land for farming. Unable to gain official support he worked on his own persuading Kikuyu warriors to celebrate tree planting as well as their celebration of crop planting and harvesting. Helped by Chief Josiah Njonjo St Barbe established hundreds of tree nurseries and many trees were planted.

As his ideas became known he received many invitations one of which was from Palestine. He was asked to start a branch of the Men of the Trees there in 1924. His skill as a negotiator was paramount, adeptly uniting others in a common cause, planting trees. His vision was to create a Green Front against the desert.

His attention was drawn to the plight of the Californian Redwoods. It was a long battle lasting nearly 10 years and a great deal of money was needed to buy the forests from the "loggers."

In 1952 St Barbe undertook the First Sahara University Expedition. Three men in an old car drove across the Sahara. This was the launch of the Sahara Reclamation Project. It was followed up by a conference in 1964 in Morocco to which leaders of all the countries fringing the Sahara were invited. St Barbe visited all these countries seeking their involvement.

Following is a quote from 'Trees are News', newsletter of the International Tree Foundation, UK Men of the Trees.

"The plan was fine, but it didn't work. Disruptive politics destroyed the hoped for unity among the countries attending the Moroccan conference. The long hopeful journey was in vain."

That was 40 years ago, and now it is time to try again. As St Barbe found out with the Redwoods battle, money and politics always take first place over ecology and the environment. The ITF has received a generous legacy from one of its members, to enable planting to begin. The ITF is seeking the best brains and skills to implement once again the original concept of the Men of the Trees."

It is interesting to note that Kenya's Green Belt Movement started by Professor Wangari Maathai in 1977 should be so active setting up nurseries and planting trees. Refer to November 2004 issue of Twahamwe.

The International Tree Foundation now has a strong international focus. Projects funded are in Kenya, Cameroon, Rwanda, Malawi, Uganda and Tamil nadu. All are oriented to community involvement especially young people.

Article published in the Beaudesert Times, January 2005:

#### MEN OF THE TREES VISIT BEAUDESERT

Beaudesert became the focus of attention for a group known as the Men of the Trees (MOTT) on Saturday. Eleven members of the environmental/tree planting group MOTT visited several areas of Beaudesert Shire and were given a tour by members of the Community Arts and Information Centre. The group visited a number of environmental and historical sites throughout the shire, including Beaudesert's first homestead.

MOTT is a group of like minded individuals who are volunteer tree planters. Volunteer coordinator Fran Gilje said the group planted 48 out of 52 Saturdays in a year and worked on various sites and projects. "Our motto is 'have trees, will travel'," she said.

MOTT began operating 84 years ago in Kenya and now has bases all over the world. While originally only catering for male volunteers, the group now has a healthy mix of men and women working together for the environment.

Ms Gilje said the group had no plans to plant in Beaudesert but liked to visit areas and keep their options open. "If we are asked by the council or a group to help out, we would try to fit them into our schedule" she said.



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## NEWS FOR TRAVELLERS

If you are travelling via Goondiwindi take time to visit the Goondiwindi Botanic Garden of the Western Woodlands. This Garden is a living museum of the unique plant communities of the Darling Basin.

Native plants in the Gardens are displayed in communities merging into each other as they occur in nature. While there are many botanic gardens throughout Australia, most are on the coastal fringe, few display native plants only. The plant community approach is rare, and none of them feature exclusively the flora of a discrete catchment.

That area from which the plants are drawn is defined by the Great Dividing Range to the East and North, the Grey Range in the West and Wilcannia in the South. Stretching from the mountains to the desert it hosts a wonderful variety of species.

The Botanic Gardens are primarily for everyone, but they also have serious scientific and educational purposes. The combination of rainfall, temperature range and soil types have created an ecosystem which is both robust and fragile. No other Botanic Gardens in Australia is capable of growing this particular combination of inland plants, most of which cannot survive in the wetter coastal climates. The first plantings took place in 1988.

The Botanic Gardens are situated on the western outskirts of the town

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## OXLEY CREEK

Jocelyn and Harvey Clarkson have spent the past ten years revegetating parkland beside Strickland Terrace at Sherwood. The 20 to 30 metre riparian corridor has been revegetated with local, native rainforest species. On the river terraces they have used *E. tereticornis* and *E. siderophloia* to create woodland and open forest communities with a grassy understory.

Jocelyn and Harvey have found the meeting of people, being with people from all walks of life, learning, understanding and having something in common to be bonus rewards from working with their dedicated team of volunteers. Some of you may remember Jocelyn and Harvey when they joined with MOTT on some of our projects.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT, JIM DALE

In his role as chairman of the Pine Rivers Catchment Association (PRCA), Jim has involved MOTT planters in planting/tending days in the South Pine River project to the beneficial effect of the association's volunteer effort.

The big occasion for MOTT Qld this year is recognition of the 25 years anniversary of our branch in this state. Jim says early plans are to have a lunch afternoon gathering with a memorabilia display and a possible speaker program. Members of long standing will be invited to participate in the event which will be held late in the year. Start looking at your photo albums and stir up your memories of funny moments and tough times; of friendships made and goals achieved; of good times and satisfaction for a job well done.

Please contact Jim on 3263 5713 with ideas to enhance this special occasion.

Details will be published in the next newsletter.

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## REMEMBER THE FARM TREE HELP SCHEME

Some members will remember our trip to Clifton to plant 1000 trees on Lois Gotz's property. MOTT member Peter Voller met us at the farm with his tree planting machine. It was a grand day and Peter reports the trees are still there!

Another farmer Daryl Lush from Hannaford planted several thousand trees supplied by MOTT on his property. Peter reports Daryl is very happy with his trees. The really good news is that he has become a local advocate of good conservation. He has tended his trees well but more importantly he has gone on to fence out some 50 ha of virgin brigalow scrub for conservation.

Peter sees the greatest value in tree planting projects out in these areas is that they often start a process of attitude change, which results in far greater conservation outcomes. The sowing of seeds sows the idea of habitat, which in turn saves habitat. St Barbe was forever sowing seeds (ideas) and believing that some would fall on fertile ground and so the ideas would spread.

## MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE 2005

Dates will occasionally change, so if you are unsure please confirm time and location with Fran or the site contact

Date	Time	Location	Activity	Contact
<b>March</b> Sat 5	9-12	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St., Kenmore	Weeding, planting and watering trees	Kerry 3289 9206
Sat 12	9-12	Across street from 207 Taringa Pde & opposite Equinox St, near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees toward the freeway. <b>Bring morning tea.</b>	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
Sat 19	9-12	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street, Bardon	Planting trees – bring mulching forks and wheelbarrows	Marion 33661448
Mon 21	9-12	Gold Scrub, Golds Scrub Rd. Near Dayboro/ Samsonvale	Weeding & Revegetation	Sandra W 3902 4416 Carole 3425 1527
<b>April</b> Sat 2	9-12	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street, Bardon	Planting trees – bring mulching forks and wheelbarrows	Marion 33661448
Sat 9	9-12	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Rd. Kenmore	Weed, mulch, plant, water	Kerry 3289 9205
Sat 16	Activity postponed till June or July			
Sat 23		Across street from 207 Taringa Pde & opposite Equinox St, near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees toward the freeway.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
Sat 26	8:30 – 11:30	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station, Tramway St, Ferny Grove	Planting and weeding	Tristan 33511930
Sat 23		Across street from 207 Taringa Pde & opposite Equinox St, near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees toward the freeway.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
Sat 30	9-12	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street, Bardon	Planting trees – bring mulching forks and wheelbarrows	Marion 33661448
<b>May</b> Sat 7	9-12	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St., Kenmore	Weeding, planting and watering trees	Kerry 3289 9206
Sat 14	9-12	Across street from 207 Taringa Pde & opposite Equinox St, near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees toward the freeway.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
Sat 21	9-12	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street, Bardon	Planting trees – bring mulching forks and wheelbarrows	Marion 33661448
Sat 28	9-12	Gold Scrub, Golds Scrub Rd. Near Dayboro/ Samsonvale	Weeding & Revegetation	Sandra W 3902 4416 Carole 3425 1527
<b>June</b> Sat 4	9-12	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street, Bardon	Planting trees – bring mulching forks and wheelbarrows	Marion 33661448
Sat 11	9-12	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street, Bardon	Planting trees – bring mulching forks and wheelbarrows	Marion 33661448
Sat 18	9-12	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah Street, Bardon	Planting trees – bring mulching forks and wheelbarrows	Marion 33661448
Sat 25	9-12	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station, Tramway St, Ferny Grove	Planting and weeding	Tristan 33511930
Sat 23		Across street from 207 Taringa Pde & opposite Equinox St, near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees toward the freeway.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505

# The Tree

“The tree is a living symbol of boundless benevolence. It does not demand anything from anybody for its own nourishment; it goes on giving enormous quantities of useful materials to the world. Not only this, but it goes on giving shade even to the wood cutter who has come to cut it down.”

Lord Buddha

**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**

TWAHAMWE - Vol XXVI No 1 March 2005  
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