



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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

ST BARBE BAKER'S LEGACY

Recently I received a letter from Barrie Oldfield, president of Men of the Trees in WA. The full text of his letter is reproduced below, on the basis that the wider membership might be encouraged to provide me (Barrie) with feedback on the proposal to recognise the 25th anniversary of St Barbe Baker's passing.

Additionally, it may be of interest to members to view the website that Barrie has provided which gives some of the history and thoughts of our founder.

Any ideas and/or feedback would be gratefully received and forwarded to Barrie.

3 Over Avenue
Lesmurdie
Western Australia 6076

19 February 2005

Jim Dale
Men of The Trees
PO Box 283
Clayfield
Queensland 4011

Dear Jim,

I'm writing in connection with the proposal to mark the 25th anniversary of the passing of Richard St Barbe Baker, (deceased 9 June 1982), on World Environment Day 5 June 2007.

Initially this began as a suggestion to reprint on of his books: Green Glory, the Story of the Forests of the World, and possibly search out and make public other hitherto unpublished manuscripts. Response to this was generally positive although several alternative and worthy suggestions were also received. In addition, people not previously known to me made contact. New evidence came to light which opens up heightened possibilities for telling a wholly new and inspiring story of St Barbe.

The purpose of such a story would be much more than a historical resumé just for the benefit of Society of Men of The Trees members. What I am hoping to do, with the help of many others, is to publish a major review of all that comprises St Barbe's legacy, aimed at the decision makers of the world. His passionate and charismatic life as a world forester showed that the simple act of planting trees is not only the answer to most of the world's environmental ills but also the most direct pathway to achieving security and peace. With Climate Change and Terrorism being the two main unsolved issues of our age this should surely be most timely.

Whether this work eventuates in the form of an hour's feature on television or as a book and CD will depend upon response to current enquiries, in any case it will support the excellent Internet information compiled by Paul Mantle and accessible at www.manofthetrees.org

I know you would be deeply interested in all this and that alone is encouragement for me to press on. Any thoughts you may have or ways you may like to help will be gladly received.

Yours sincerely

Barrie Oldfield OAM

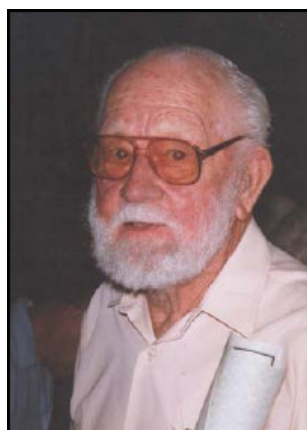
25 YEAR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

I was extremely pleased with the attendance at our birthday party last November, particularly with the presence of those past and present long standing members who we have not seen for some time.

The billy tea and damper format was a big hit, especially with Fran Gilje (not part of traditional Canadian cuisine), and Bob Walker whose morning teas for several days were based on the leftovers.

Members greatly enjoyed catching up with one another, viewing photographs and reflecting on past projects and activities. Commemorative trees were planted by Ngairretta and Peter Heindorff (in memory of Angus Johnson).

A pleasant morning was rounded off with a yarnning up session at which MOTT's raconteurs Dave Cameron, Clive Price, Brian Hallinan and other luminaries entertained guests with some of the more humorous aspects of our past activities.



VALE ANGUS JOHNSON OAM – TRULY A MAN OF THE TREES

Angus came to MOTT in 1987. We quickly discovered he was totally immersed in his true love – collection of seed, propagation of native plants, planting of native trees, caring for them and spreading the word about trees and helping people to understand the need for growing trees.

His back yard was always overflowing with small trees in pots waiting to be given to schools, community groups and MOTT projects. He was first on the scene at every MOTT project. Some of you will recall the Samsonvale days in the late 80's and early 90's – Angus and his sturdy truck full of young trees would be found there at 7 a.m. He was already unloading and placing the plants on site ready for the planters. Among the last to leave the site Angus was to be seen checking that all 1000 had

found a good home, were well watered and mulched.

Angus filled many roles for MOTT. Demonstrating propagation and planting techniques at Open Days, schools and at Retirement Villages. He had a close link with the students at Aspley Special School. He trained MOTT members and others in Propagation techniques, some of his students graduating with flying colours and emerging as star pupils. Some graduates have embarked on significant plant supply projects resulting in several thousands of young trees finding their way to western towns in Queensland. The right tree in the right place of course. Some of his graduates became growers for the Farm Tree Help Scheme which supplied trees to farmers.

In the early 90's he played the leading role in the video made by Greening Australia titled "Growing Trees". In this Angus takes a group of school students through all the steps from seed sowing to planting. He was at his happiest when with groups of school children. With his white beard some were heard to ask if he was Santa Claus.

He made a weekly delivery of several hundred trees to the St Barbe Baker nursery at The Gap, when operated by MOTT and now managed by Greening Australia. His contribution to the nursery was in the order of 18,000 trees per year.


A great recycler and extremely practical, Angus built the Gusmobile, a mobile display trolley, with an attractive striped awning for setting up plant and information displays. Mobility was provided by discarded golf buggy wheels. He also designed and had constructed a simple tree trailer for convenient covered transport of young trees.

His tree planting activities won him the Brisbane City Council Citizen of the Year Award in 1991. In 1998 he won the Individual Award in the Spade and Shade Awards in Queensland. In 1999 he was recognised nationally with a Greening Australia Award. In 2001 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia, OAM.

There is so much more to tell about Angus Johnson OAM. This barely touches the surface. Always encouraging and always ready to help, Angus Johnson made an outstanding contribution to the greening of Australia.

MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE – 2006

Always check with coordinator or Fran (3851 0858) for possible changes

APRIL 1-Sat 9-12	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St Kenmore	Weeding, planting, mulching & watering trees	Kerry 3289 9206
8-Sat 9-12	Across Street from 207 Taringa Pde. and opposite Equinox St near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees Mulching & watering	Pam Rudder 3878 9505 Kerry 3289 9206
15-Sat 9-12	Bardon Esplanade Bardon	Weed Removal Some plant replacement	Marion 3366 1448
22-Sat 9-12	Cabbage Tree Creek behind Fran's (9 Lynwood Court Ferry Hills)	Planting Creek Side	Amanda Fox 3480 6745 Mob. 0437 439 774 Fran 3851 0858
29-Sat 9-12	Cedar Creek- behind Police Station, Tramway St, Ferry Grove	Maintenance New Planting, Mulching, Watering	Kerry 3289 9206
MAY 6-Sat 	?? Mystery Trip?? With an environmental focus...??	Details to be supplied closer to the date	Tristan 3351 7143 Marion 3366 1448
13-Sat 9-12	Girl Guide circle extension Coolibah St. Bardon	Planting and Mulching Watering	
20-Sat 9-12	Across Street from 207 Taringa Pde. and opposite Equinox St near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees Mulching & watering	Pam Rudder 3878 9505 Kerry 3289 9206
27-Sat 8:30 – 12	Gold Scrub, Gold's Scrub Rd. Samsonvale	Weeding and Revegetation	Sandra W 3902 4416 Carole 3379 1453
JUNE 3-Sat 9-12	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St Kenmore	Weeding, planting, mulching & watering trees	Kerry 3289 9206
10-Sat 9-12	Cedar Creek- behind Police Station, Tramway St. Ferry Grove	Maintenance New Planting, Mulching, Watering	Tristan 3351 7143 Kerry 3289 9206
17-Sat 9-12	Holy Spirit Anglican Church 1036 Moggill Rd, Kenmore	Weed, Plant, Mulch , Water	Kerry 3289 9206
24-Sat 9-12	Cabbage Tree Creek behind Fran's (9 Lynwood Court Ferry Hills)	Planting Creek Side	Amanda Fox 3480 6745 M. 0437 439 774 Fran 3851 0858

THE INTERNATIONAL TREE FOUNDATION UK - FORMERLY THE MEN OF THE TREES UK

ITF, International Tree Foundation, continue with their overseas support. Latest reports come from Tamil Nadu, the southern most state of India. Adam Bickerton reported on his visit to the region in the March 2006 edition of Trees are News. The River Palar in Vellore has had no flow for 10 years, due to failing rains, upstream dams and industrial extraction. Tree survival is not an easy achievement.

Adam visited three schools in the area. He found the children well tutored in the benefits of trees and environmental protection and improvement. Secondary usage of water is employed to provide water for trees.

ITF has been providing funding to these and other schools in support of the developments to improve life in this part of India.

Surrey Branch of ITF has supported for a number of years a project on the island of Leyte in the Philippines. PEOPLE, People for Ecological Preservation of Leyte's Environment, has established 5 nurseries in 4 tree planting sites on the island and have raised at least 343,000 fruit and forest seedlings.

Their aim is to plant 200 hectares and the upland farmers have managed to protect 150 hectares. Despite the economic difficulties besetting the country PEOPLE is well on target for their reforestation work. Of 7 tree species planted on 4 different sites survival percentage rates were 75 – 83 %. Objectives have been achieved through proper consultations and information drives at community level.

Part of their success is due to UK support but they would like to be independent of overseas cash donations. They hope to receive a greater part of their income from other sources such as the sale of Abaca handicrafts, Abaca being one of the crops they are growing.

From Trees are News. March 2006

A NEW WEED IN OUR WATERWAYS

Dischoriste depressa (no common name) a native of South Africa has been identified along Kedron Brook. The plant is a soft weed that grows vigorously along the margins of the waterway forming dense clumps up to 1 metre high and several metres wide. It is also capable of colonising hardened gravel roadside verges. This dichotomy of habitats is cause for concern.

Early indications are that *Dischoriste* is being rapidly spread by mowing, but at this stage is currently confined to watercourse parklands. There are no sightings yet reported in the wider catchment areas.

Fortunately the weed is susceptible to low concentrations of Roundup applied as an over the top spray. Efforts are being made to raise awareness of this species with the local authorities in Brisbane and Pine Rivers, so that early controls can be applied.

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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