



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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Temptation Island... MOTT goes to Straddy

I for one was very glad the Stradbroke Bushcare Group needed our help. It gave us the opportunity to go to a really beautiful place, with a bunch of like-minded people, to picnic, swim and to generally have a jolly good time whilst also getting 500 trees and creepers into the ground, or should I say, into the sand at Point Lookout Beach.

Thirty volunteers from GA and MOTT braved hot weather, bush fires and each other to join the Straddie locals planting up the dunes with Casuarina and Acacia in the forefront to bear the brunt of the wind and exposure and with Banksias at the back. We also planted *Stephania japonica* or Snake Vine, which criss-crosses its way across the dunes, providing a very effective barrier to wind erosion. Every tree had three stakes and a plastic guard around it as added protection against the constant sea breeze.

As goes the saying, there's no work without play, we certainly did play and, even though we were only there for two nights, Straddie has so much to offer. We went walking around the headlands where we saw dolphins and sea eagles, we swam at the beautiful Cylinder beach (not many like this so close to Brisbane!) we watched the glow of the bushfires on Saturday night be extinguished by a shower of rain and swam and adventured around Brown Lake. Oh, the food and accommodation were great too.

It was not just bushfires burning at Straddie that weekend; the crimson flames of romance were sizzling between some of the younger ones. The trip on the barge home revealed that some people would not be putting out any fires for a long time to come. Then there were the two who didn't get to bed on Saturday night... not mentioning any names. On the whole, everyone was very compatible, Someone commented that, "it was the comradeship which actually made the weekend. Everyone pitched in when required and we had a good time. Just be yourself. It was the balance between work and play that really made it good." Well said.

This trip highlighted how good it is to be a MOTT volunteer. By being a regionally focused organisation we get the chance to see places and meet people from all around South East Queensland. We can help out Bushcare groups with limited membership in more remote areas. They couldn't normally undertake plantings of this size.

Oh... and thank you very much to Donna for organising us all!

Tristan Peach

TWAHAMWE AT KEDRON BROOK

On Saturday 20 April, MOTT members combined with the Lutwyche Reach Bushcare Group to progress the greening of Kedron Brook. Up to 50 volunteers turned up at 7:30 am to both extend the Damon Road plot and tend the earlier plantings. Five organisations were represented.

The event was timed to coincide with the Matthew Flinders celebrations, and the opportunity was taken to establish some *Flindersia* species that were originally named after the famous explorer.

The site is quite steep, and the weather conditions have been less than favourable since the previous planting in October, but members were agreeably surprised with the growth of the trees and shrubs to date.

Prior to the start of the project, it had been put to MOTT that there was some local resistance to planting up the waterway, and the watching "peanut gallery" on the other side of the creek was cause for us to wonder just what might eventuate from the morning's activities. Certainly the appearance of the project contrasts more than favourably with the rank vegetation currently occupying the steep embankment on the southern side of the Brook in this area. Hopefully the hearts and minds will soon be converted.

Habitat Brisbane has indicated that it is considering an extension of the plots on the left bank of the Brook at Hickey Park in which MOTT organised the planting of 6000 trees one Saturday morning. This extension will be much smaller than the March 2000 effort, and is due to happen on Saturday 15 June.

Kedron Brook is a high profile area that is loved by many of the local residents, and there is scope for MOTT to raise its profile (and hopefully its membership) by being actively associated with its rehabilitation. We can do this by undertaking our own plantings and also by assisting other community groups on the Brook with their projects.

I urge MOTT members to pencil 15 June into their calendars for a big one, so that we can advance the good works done previously.

PS This time the site will be a little less on its side for those of us who don't have one leg longer than the other!

Jim Dale

The Flying Fox Case

Chris McGrath, Barrister-at-Law

In the first full trial under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* ("the Flying Fox Case"), Justice Branson of the Federal Court has decided to grant an injunction restraining an action found to be causing a significant impact on the world heritage values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The case is a crucial test of the new offence provisions for matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act and a landmark case highlighting the importance of open standing for public interest litigation to protect the environment.

The Flying Fox Case involved an application by a conservationist to restrain the mass culling of Spectacled Flying Foxes (*Pteropus conspicillatus*) by a large aerial high-voltage electric grid on a 60ha lychee farm in north Queensland, adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

A further important aspect of the case is that it establishes that an action taken outside a World Heritage area can be regulated under the EPBC Act if it has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on world heritage values.

Australian Rainforest Conservation Society

Rainforest Restoration – the Army at Canungra

Every second year in May Don Lynch holds a successful rainforest field day at the Army Promotion Training Centre at Canungra. The work done by the Army at this site won the 1999 Queensland Arbor Day Award for Corporate Tree Planter.

The Army Promotion Training Centre (APTC) formerly Land Warfare Centre is located near Canungra on the Darlington Range, a spur of the Great Dividing Range.

It consists of a 5,944 hectare rugged mix of basalt, sedimentary and sandstone soils with craggy rhyolite outcrops. The sandstones are overlaid with richer alluvials in parts of the major streamlines. Vegetation ranges from heath through open forests to rainforests (sub-tropical and dry) depending on the soil type and aspect.

History of land use

The first impacts on the district were from cedar cutters who appeared in the late 1840s, followed by extensive hoop pine milling. The Lahey Sawmill at Canungra was, for many years, the largest mill in the Southern Hemisphere and extracted enormous amounts of

pine. The milling of pine, cabinet and hardwood timbers cleared much of the land and opened it up for the mixed farming and dairying, which further developed the district.

The Army has had an influence in the area since 1942, when it was decided to establish a Jungle Training Centre at Canungra to train the troops needed to stem the advance of the Japanese on Australia.

The present training area is used for dismounted training (infantry) only, with areas set aside for the live firing of infantry weapons. The type of training carried out requires good vegetation cover to be effective, so great care is taken to maintain the natural values of the environment.

The care of the training area by APTC was recognised in 1996, when it was placed on the Register of the National Estate for its natural values.

Regeneration and restoration

Restoration work began at the site in 1970, with a weed control project to rid the area of Groundsel Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*), a declared weed and replant with local native rainforest species. While the revegetation had only mild success, the direction of the project changed to restoring rainforest on good soils that were degraded, mostly by lantana. Thus began the rainforest restoration program at Canungra that is now 10 years old. Don Lynch runs regular field days that provide tours of restoration sites at the training area and a range of expert speakers on topics related to rainforest restoration.

The Growing Idea Spring 2000 Edition

Add to your reading list Growing Rainforest by Robert Kooyman.

Volunteer Profile: Fantastic Fran Gilje

This is a new section in the newsletter that will highlight the efforts of our fabulous MOTT volunteers. Who better to profile first than Fran? Our reporters undertook a quick interview with Fantastic Fran to find out what really makes her tick.

Tell me a little about your background? I used to teach music and Design and Technology, play the guitar, clarinet and trumpet. This is my fourth trip to Australia (from Canada) and this time I decided to settle - a big reason for me staying here was my MOTT friends and the sunshine! In Canada we had to stay inside a bit and so we played lots of board games like Scrabble.

One of my greatest concerns in life is to help MOTT stay together. I would go to nearly any lengths (not including murder!) to keep MOTT growing. That is why I still work in the Nursery, to meet people who might be encouraged to join in our work.

It is always good to get new members because each person can bring something new to the organisation. MOTT is a very strong organisation and we like to promote new ideas, a desire to research, study and experiment with different methods of environmental management. We're always meeting new people, developing partnerships as we move around South East Queensland.

How long have you been working with MOTT? About seven years. I do about three days at week at the Nursery and Saturdays with the planting group.

What do you do with MOTT? One of my latest responsibilities is filling up the cookie jar at the Cottage.

Fran actually does a lot of scheduling and is somehow the first contact point for phone calls. ***How did that happen?*** I'm a PR person but I'm not a PR person. You could call me a Project Coordinator.

What inspires you? Most readers probably feel the same way but it's about giving, not taking. I love being in the outdoors too. I'm still lucky to be able to get out and about. I also love going to restaurants with the planting group!

What is your most memorable MOTT moment? There are two, when I arrived at the Brisbane Airport the last time I came back to Australia and there were eight or ten MOTT people there to meet me. That was really thrilling! The second one is the results of several months work in preparing a Kedron Brook planting day. As part of a team we arranged this planting day and it was attended by more than 200 people and we planted over 5000 trees (largest planting ever in Brisbane by any group!).

MOTT Office Update

Well we've had the computer for a few months now and everything is going very well. On a Tuesday morning the office is bustling with people faxing, phoning, typing, learning and publishing. If you've got some skills to offer we would welcome it very much. We're in the middle of developing a revegetation site database, which we can put on the net, so people can read about our sites and so we can keep track of everything that's going on.

No More Unnecessary Filler

It has been announced by the editor that no more articles in this newsletter will be used for unnecessary filler. Articles that speak about nothing will not be tolerated. Articles that repeat themselves will also not be published.

Please try and keep all articles to a maximum of one paragraph. Usually the second paragraph is just a summary of the first paragraph anyway.

Want to become a person of the trees?

Firstly we should point out you don't have to be a man! If you are interested in the great outdoors and helping the environment and you also like to have some fun then maybe you should become a member of MOTT.

We have a regular Saturday planting group that goes all around Brisbane planting trees. We also have special events such as trips to Stradbroke Island and Springbrook National Park, which are great fun, and sometimes we even get some planting done!

If you are more of an office type person we have heaps of stuff to do at our office during the week and you can take on as little or as much work as you want. It's all very flexible and if you have a project of your own we can always try and fit it into our schedule.

See the membership form on the back of this newsletter. If you want more info ring Jim on 32635713 or ring our office on 3300 0008 and leave a message and we'll ring you back.

Without vision a people perish

- Richard St Barbe Baker

We therefore need VISIONARIES

Some visionaries are merely dreamers

But PIONEERS go out and turn their vision into REALITY

PIONEERS make visions ACCESSIBLE to others

MEN OF THE TREES are pioneers

They pioneered the reclamation of Sahelian Africa 70 years ago

Today they pioneer the means to PROSPERITY in dryland Australia

Bringing TREES to the landscape

LIFE to the soil

HOPE to the farmers

TREES + LIFE + HOPE = PEACE

And PEACE is the eternal message of CHRISTMAS

Calendar dates

May

Saturday 11 – Bunya, Kingfisher Street Albany Creek. Nathan Kirby
3325 1577

Tuesday 14 – Arbor Day North Queensland

Saturday 18 – Quakers Hampson Street Kelvin Grove

Saturday 25 – Gold's Scrub, Lake Samsonvale. Donna Bowe 3902
4444

June

Wednesday 5 – World Environment Day

Saturday 15 – Kedron Brook at Damon Road. Kerry Walker 3289
9206

Saturday 22 – Gold's Scrub, Lake Samsonvale. Donna Bowe 3902
4444

July

Monday 22 – 80th anniversary founding Men of the Trees

Saturday 22 – Gold's Scrub, Lake Samsonvale Donna Bowe 3902
4444

Significant Dates.

June 5 – World Environment Day

June 9 – 20 years since Richard St Barbe Baker aged 92 died in
Saskatchewan in the Year of the Tree.

July 22 – 80th anniversary of founding of Men of the Trees

October 8 – Arbor Day in Southern Queensland

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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