



**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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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held at The Gap Scouts Hall on 25 August . Fortunately we selected an indoor venue this year because the skies opened shortly after proceedings got under way. The office bearers for 2002/2003 were elected unopposed. They are as follows:

President Jim Dale

Secretary Ross Gutteridge

Treasurer Richard Arundel

Committee Members Fran Gilje

Gerry Dunford

Hugh Preston

Kerry Walker

Keith Fordyce

Peter Dormer

Further the president's report for 2001-2002 (presented in full in the August edition of Twahamwe), the treasurer reported a healthy balance in all of the operating accounts. This has been made possible however by a number of grants which have effectively funded our business for the past twelve months. The president then thanked all of the outgoing and incoming committee members.

Immediately following the AGM, a management committee meeting was convened with the object of discussing the following propositions:

- **Is there a future for MOTT as a cohesive organisation given our current operating environment?**
- **What is it that members would like to see happen to make this vision a reality?**
- **Do you think that we should enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with interstate chapters of MOTT to form a national body with a view to obtaining more funding through a strengthened organisational profile?**

I raised the first question as it is of some concern to me that there appears to be a gap between the regular Saturday morning toilers and the balance of the organisation. The quorum seemed unconcerned by the situation however, and responded positively to this question. To question two, it was suggested that MOTT needed to engage in partnerships with other organisations on projects that had a more strategic focus, and to develop our own imaginative broad-acre projects that would make us a rallying point for potential members. Other suggestions involved developing our own computer generated signs to better advertise our on ground outcomes of Brisbane Habitat, and investigating linkages with the TAFE College at Grovely

Question three was discussed at length, but the consensus of opinion was that MOTT Qld simply did not have the critical mass or energy to step into the national arena at this point. The decision was not taken lightly, and there was some regret at this outcome

Jason Keily from MOTT WA the convenor of the national body exercise has since been advised of our views and has expressed profound disappointment that we were disinclined to come on board with this initiative.

From my perspective it was good to have the opportunity to engage the membership with this type of debate despite the rather disappointing turnout (<20) for the AGM. I thank those members who added to the discussions on these issues.

Since this debate occurred, I have made tentative approaches to the Pine Rivers Catchment Association with a view to developing or participating in an Envirofund partnership project.

I look forward to working with you all during the coming year.

Regards, Jim Dale

## News from here and there.

### MOTT in NSW

Diana Kureen, President, took over in 2001 from Frank Braybrooks who had led MOTT for 15 years. During that period Frank and Libby Braybrooks have supervised the nursery at Cattai. Many hundreds of plants were produced there over the years for plantings including the major NHT funded project 'Filling the Gaps' on the Hawkesbury River. Funding has been fully expended but there is always some ongoing maintenance. Diana, in her Annual Report, speaks of another successful year thanks to the efforts of a small group always on the lookout for new members.

## **MOTT Victoria**

This organisation is now known as Greenlink Yarra Bend. The group is largely committed to the revegetation of Yarra Bend Park, and it will not be as active with the issues of world revegetation as was Men of the Trees (Vic.). The death in August of Minette Russell-Young, President of MOTT in Victoria for the past 15 years, is a great loss to all involved in conservation and revegetation around Melbourne. Yarra Bend Park has been the focus of MOTT activity for many years. The vision, inspired by Minette, was to try to restore entire indigenous ecosystems through high quality regeneration. Minette had long experience teaching ecology and active restoration.

## **Trees for Life. South Australia**

From their newsletter, Releaf, comes the inspiring news that since 1981 members have grown approximately 23 million seedlings. An undoubted leader in providing tube stock they have now moved into a Direct Seeding Program. They have been contracted to direct seed up to 375,000 plants in just one year of operation

The first stage of a large undertaking at Monarto is underway. 12 months ago seeds were collected and seedlings were raised for launching on World Environment Day, June 5, the Forest Net World Revegetation project at Monarto. Hundreds of students and adults have planted 15,000 seedlings since that day. Tree and bushes planted will help to keep the Murray River clean.

## **MOTT West Australia.**

From the west comes yet another story of a project relating to keeping river water clean. The York project, funded by the WA Lotteries Commission, was designed to help reduce the salinity flow into the Mortlock and Avon Rivers. The initial planting of 400,000 seedlings was achieved in 6 days over two weekends. There were many willing helpers including school students, TAFE students and City Farm personnel.

Wa MOTT have completed their tenth year at Amery Acres, project demonstrating the effects of adding rock dust to enrich the soil. They have a number of subsidy groups such as the groups at Peel and Rockingham as well as The Farm Tree Help Scheme and their thriving St Barbe nursery at Hazelmere.

## **International Tree Foundation, originally Men of the Trees UK.**

Founded in 1922, eighty years ago, the International Tree Foundation has appointed its first ever Chief Executive, Kay Sexton. To quote from Kay: "I am thrilled to lead the International Tree Foundation. Our role is unique: we unite the local activity of our members and volunteers who work tirelessly to produce a greener lovelier Britain with the grants that we make to some of the world's poorest and most fragile communities. For over eighty years ITF has been thinking globally and acting locally with wonderful results. Now I want to reach out and involve community organisations and the corporate sector in our achievements as well as increasing our individual membership."

In 2001 ITF provided financial assistance towards three projects in Africa, in Malawi and Ghana. Desperately in need of regeneration projects Haiti is receiving support from the Somerset branch in the UK. Students from the American University of the Caribbean will be trained to replant denuded areas on nearby mountain slopes.

Kay Sexton says: "Our founder was a radical visionary – now we have to be radical and visionary too. We have to reinterpret the founder's vision for the 21st century, and may have to take a few risks...To succeed among the environmental organisations we are competing with, we must adapt." Kay sees ITF as having a remarkable past but it is not the time to look backwards. How far does this reflect forwards?

What is going to make our founder be remembered into the 21st century? she asks.

## **Winners announced for Queensland Arbor Day Awards**

This year's winners of the Queensland Arbor Day Awards were announced at a special function at Brisbane Forest Park on Arbor Day, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

"The awards celebrate achievements by inspiring individuals and groups in our community" said Julie Olsen, Awards Coordinator for the Spade and Shade Committee.

The list of winners in each category for the 2002 awards are as follows:

Kingaroy Shire Council – Local Government Award

South Johnstone State School – Flinders Award

Queensland Rail – Corporate Award

Lloyd Bird – Individual Award

Ferny Grove State High School – Schools Award

Kingaroy Shire Council – Regional (south) Award

Ma:mu Aboriginal Corporation – Group Award

Kalamia State School – Regional (north Award

Judges assessed the commitment to planting trees and managing native vegetation and the way each group or individual involved the local community in their project. They also looked for a planned approach to the project, a commitment to maintaining sites, indicators of success and ongoing commitment to their project.

The awards are coordinated by The Spade and Shade Committee, a group made up of representatives from Greening Australia Queensland (Inc), Men of the Trees, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane City Council, Queensland Cancer Fund, Queensland Health and the Flinders 2002 Queensland Committee.

Results and detailed summaries of finalists are available at [www.forests.qld.gov.au/arbor/](http://www.forests.qld.gov.au/arbor/)

## **Kingaroy Shire Council a winner in Arbor Day Awards**

Kingaroy Shire Council has taken out two prizes in the 2002 Queensland Arbor Day Awards, with wins in the local government and regional categories. Council's project was deemed the best in southern Queensland, ahead of 13 other entries.

The first part of the project involved developing a Remnant Vegetation Management Strategy for the Kingaroy Shire. This enabled priority sites to be identified for the Onground Community Conservation Action that followed. With funding assistance from the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust, Council was able to appoint a project coordinator.

The project is a pilot for utilisation by other Councils and community groups.

## **School's Award Winning Efforts to Save River**

South Johnstone State School has won the Flinders Award in the 2002 Queensland Arbor Day Awards.

For the past four years, students have been busy weeding and planting native trees along the banks of the South Johnstone River, their school grounds and local creek. They hope to improve water quality and reduce the threats of erosion and pollution.

Hundreds of local trees have been planted, amongst them are species that were collected during the voyage of Matthew Flinders.

Environmental themes have been integrated into all curriculum areas and students are encouraged to work with local farmers and landowners, businesses, Council, community groups, Green Corps and Waterwatch. Substantial support is provided by the Johnstone Shire Community Revegetation Unit.

### **Queensland Rail a winner in Queensland Arbor Day Awards**

Queensland Rail's Stuart Creek Rehabilitation Project began in 1996. The relocation of some of QR's Townsville facilities to land at Stuart involved the restoration of 2km x 100m (20 ha) corridor along Stuart Creek. The area contained one of the largest areas of original vegetation situated along this creek but was infested with weeds such as chinee apple, rubber vine and introduced grasses.

The weeds have been replaced with open woodland and fringing creek vegetation, thanks to support from the Natural Heritage Trust. The local community has helped to plant local, native species, with 6800 trees planted since 1999.

The land will be donated to Townsville City Council for use as a public nature reserve. QR hopes that a bridge will be built to connect the reserve with Council's tree planting scheme on the other side of the creek and has applied to have the site declared as a Nature Refuge under the Nature Conservation Act.

### **Local naturalist recognised for 30 year effort**

Springfield's own David Attenborough, Mr Lloyd Bird, is a winner in the individual Award category of the 2002 Queensland Arbor Day Awards.

A life member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, for the last thirty years Mr Bird of Bundamba has been recording native plants, educating people and promoting the protection of remnant vegetation in his local area.

"Many people have been inspired by Lloyd's walks and talks" said Ms Olsen. "He has been the driving force behind a ten-year effort to improve Woogaroo Creek and Opossum Creek at Springfield by restoring the natural ecology of the local rainforest and surrounding flat."

"He has also discovered four new plant species and provided 1040 new species records to the Queensland herbarium" she said. "People are surprised to learn that he is an ex coal miner and self-taught botanist."

### **Ferny Grove High a winner in the Queensland Arbor Day Awards**

Ferny Grove State High School has won the Schools Award in the 2002 Queensland Arbor Day Awards.

Students were kept busy removing weeds when the Ferny Grove High Park Project began eight years ago. Now a Land for Wildlife site, the school is currently restoring the lower part of Cedar Creek, using local native plant species.

Project work is integrated into Year 10 Social and Environmental Sciences and Year 11 and 12 Horticulture and the site makes the ideal 'living' resource for science projects. Students encourage others and work with local community groups and schools.

Thanks to support from Brisbane City Council's Habitat Brisbane program, the school has been able to develop a five-year vegetation management plan.

### **Ma:mu Bushfood Garden a winner in Queensland Arbor Day Awards**

Ma:mu Aboriginal Corporation has been recognised for its contribution to the local community and environment by taking out the Group Award in the 2002 Queensland Arbor Day Awards.

The Ma:mu Bushfood Garden was set up to benefit the community through education, as well as provide economic and social gains.

Seven hundred trees have been planted, all of which are used for day-to-day cultural living. Some provide bush tucker, while others can be used for making spears, boomerangs, canoes or baskets. Ma:mu Community Revegetation Unit staff and volunteers, Councillors and community members have all been involved in planting the trees.

Johnstone Shire Council provided land in the Warrina Lakes complex and, in conjunction with the Community Revegetation Unit (CRU), provided planning, technical and infrastructural support. Volunteer Ruth Lipscombe helped the group to progress its idea and successfully applied on their behalf for an ABC Community Garden Grant.

### **Kalamia State School a winner in the 2002 Queensland Arbor Day Awards.**

Kalamia State School has won a Regional Award in the 2002 Queensland Arbor Day Awards.

Students and teachers from Kalamia State School have worked alongside parents, volunteers, local industry, government and community organisations to repair the habitat of local, low-lying wetlands previously spoiled by weeds and mill refuse. The five-year project is known as "Barks" which stands for the Beautification and Revegetation of Kalamia School.

"Native birds, insects and animals are already using habitat areas planted by students" said Ms Olsen. "What's great is that the school has taken a 'learning through doing' approach by integrating practical environmental work into subjects like mathematics, language, science and social studies."

### **Arbor Day Origins**

In many countries it has long been the tradition to hold an annual tree or forest festival. The origin of such celebrations dates back to antiquity and is in the dawn of religious feeling and awe for what trees represented. However, Arbor Day, as it is commonly known today, is of American origin and evolved from conditions peculiar to the Great Plains. It was the lack of trees in Nebraska that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s.

	Start/finish	Location	Activity	Contact
November				
2	9am	Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Road, Kenmore	Weeding	Kerry 32899206 Fran 38510858
9	9am	Ithaca Creek, Bowman Parade SITE 3, Bardon	Planting and maintenance	Marion 33661448
16		Free Spot		
23	9am	Cedar Creek, Tramway Street, Ferry Grove	Planting and mulching with the Cedar Creek bushcare group	Andrew 38510118 Tristan 33511930
30	9am	Gold's Scrub, Gold Scrub Road, Dayboro	Weeding to assist natural regeneration	Donna Bowe 32173065 Carole 34251527
December				
7	9am	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley Street, Kenmore	Weed, plant, mulch	Kerry 32899206
14	9am	Paten Creek	Maintenance	Peter 38483521 Hugh 33785340
21			Holidays	
28		MERRY CHRISTMAS	Holidays	

#### A Prayer for the Trees

"O God

We thank you for thy trees

Through the leafy canopy of the woodland stream the

Rays of thy holy sunlight.

Thou comest very near us through thy servants the trees.

May they be a constant reminder to us of those who have died

That we might live and enjoy the Earth that thou hast created.

Help us to give the best to life, and leave the world a little

More beautiful for having lived in it.

Prosper thou our planting and establishing thy kingdom of

Love and understanding upon the Earth.

Help us to be just to the Earth beneath our feet, to the

Neighbours by our side, and to the light which comes from

Above, so that we may live in peace and prosper."

*St Barbe's Prayer 1981 Keepsake Book*

#### 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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