



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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KENYA'S QUEEN OF GREEN

In Twahamwe November 1996 we wrote an article about Kenya's Green Belt Movement. This is a community based project created and directed by women. Thousands of Kenyan women play an active part in a nation-wide environmental campaign which takes the tree as a symbol of hope and indicator of what must be done to conserve the environment and ensure development that meets today's needs without jeopardizing the world of tomorrow.

In Twahamwe November 1997 there was a further article about the Green Belt Movement and its founder and coordinator Professor Wangari Maathai. In 1991 she received the Africa Award in recognition of her work. In Twahamwe September 1999 we wrote about the Movement 'Sowing the Seeds of Hope'.

In 2004 this environmentalist has won the Nobel Peace Prize for leading a campaign to plant millions of trees across Africa to slow desertification. Wangari is the first 'greenie' and African woman recipient since the prize was first presented in 1901. There were 194 candidates.

A biologist by training she has been involved in environmental, developmental and social issues. She has achieved acknowledgement and respect both nationally and internationally through her actions and writings.

Elected to the Kenyan parliament in 2002 she serves as Kenya's Assistant Environment Minister. She lectured for many years at Nairobi University and found time for involvement in the National Council of Women of Kenya and the Kenya Red Cross. From her association with the NCWK which supports children and tree planting she started the Green Belt Movement.

The Movement encourages the use of indigenous trees and shrubs in order to protect the genetic resources of Kenya's different ecological zones.

They have approached a number of other countries in eastern and southern Africa to launch what is hoped will become an All-Africa Green Belt Movement Network

In the early days Wangari visited schools and encouraged children and parents to grow and plant trees. She urged farmers to plant protective green belts of trees. The Movement has supplied over a thousand nurseries to rural areas, where local staff distributes tools and train people to collect and plant seeds. There have been jobs for hundreds of people all over Kenya, including the handicapped, the poor and unemployed youth. Many poor and illiterate women have been reached by the Green Belt. Their trust has been won and they have been empowered. Today they have been taught about good nutrition in traditional foods and family planning has been promoted.

Deforestation has been a major problem in Kenya, exposing millions of people to drought and poverty. Wangari's organisation has planted more than 30 million trees and its nurseries now employ tens of thousand of people. 2 per cent of Kenya has forest cover, far below the UN's recommended 10% necessary for a country to sustain life naturally.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GREEN BELT MOVEMENT

Valid for many countries around the world.

The Seven Steps to Conservation- the Green Belt Movement

- The message should respond to a local need.
- The message must make good sense.
- The project must be honest.
- The project should work patiently to motivate communities.
- Ensure the project offers some short-term successes.
- Try to reach decision makers as well as reaching the rural communities.
- Create a forum for continuous dialogue.

SPADE AND SHADE ARBOR DAY AWARDS 2004

Many remarkable tree planters were discovered once more in the Annual Arbor Day Awards for 2004.

Overall winner of the Minister's (NRM) Golden Spade Award went to the Hinchinbrook Landcare Group for their work of restoration on Macknade Creek at Ingham.

Begun in 2001 the group has restored 6 hectares of wetland ecosystem, planted 5000 trees with a very high survival rate, formed partnerships with community and corporate groups and created a source of pride for the local community.

CARBON NEUTRAL PROGRAM IN WEST AUSTRALIA

Sponsored by RAC (Royal Automobile Club) in Western Australia this innovative program enables motorists to offset their CO2 emissions through subscribing to tree planting. WA MOTT plants and looks after the trees. An average car and mileage is covered for around \$50 per year. The slogan is 'Help Stop Global Warming'.

For more information visit www.carbonneutral.com.au or call 08 9250 1888

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The International Tree Foundation, Men of the Trees in UK, conveys news of their international endeavours in Uganda, the Sahara and the Philippines.

Dr. Tony Warne, chairman, says in his annual report:

'One of the most important activities of ITF is our support to overseas planting. This is something that we do that distinguishes us from other tree charities and is taking forward the vision of our founder Richard St Barbe Baker. Many parts of the world have been depleted of trees but the harm this has done is now recognised and there is a willingness to reverse this situation but often no finance to do it. Several of our branches' projects are supporting overseas groups. The difficulty is getting good reliable feed back from the projects.'

'A few years ago we were left a legacy for planting in the Sahara region. We feel that it is essential that education about tree planting and management is an integral part of any project to perpetuate it beyond our involvement.'

'It is difficult to carry out these projects in sub Sahara Africa from Britain so we are looking for appropriate partners who can work with the communities to put our plans into action.'

We have already a small project in the Sudan through connections with the Devon Branch.'

David Sharland is on the spot in Uganda and is setting up a series of village-level training courses in the value, care, protection and sensitive use of trees in the community.

The Surrey Branch supports a project in Leyte in the Philippines. Since 1996 following a terrible flash flood a partnership has been set up. Tens of thousands of trees have been planted, tree nurseries set up and contour hedges planted on the hillsides to check erosion. Mangroves have been planted to restore coastal areas.

Two initiatives have been the growing of abaca and using fruit trees in reforestation and agro forestry.

Abaca is a large fibre plant which grows to 4 metres high, is a good companion plant and of economic value for the fibre which can be made into high quality woven goods.

The planting of fruit trees is valued by farmers for giving them an immediate income from the fruit. Indigenous to Leyte are the mango, jackfruit, citrus and others, which will fruit within three to five years.

MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE 2004

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
Nov 6	9.00am – 12.00pm	Across street from 207 Taringa Pde, and opposite Equinox St, near the Freeway	Removal of succulent weeds, some planting. Bring plastic bags and tools.	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
Nov 13	9.00am – 12.00pm	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Moggill Road, Kenmore	Weed, plant, mulch water Management Committee Meeting 12 noon	Kerry 3289 9205
Nov 20	8.30am – 11.30am	Bunya Crossing Park. End of Dugandan Road (Map 107 Q20)	Planting trees	Jann McArthur 3325 1577 or 0419 029 585
Nov 27	9.00am – 12.00pm	Gold's Scrub, Gold Scrub Road, Dayboro	Weeding and revegetation.	Donna 3902 4416 Carole 3425 1527
Dec 4	8.30am – 11.30am	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley Street, Kenmore.	Weeding, planting and watering trees.	Kerry 3289 9206
Dec 11	8.30am – 11.30am	Girl Guide Hut, Coolibah Street, Bardon.	Planting and weeding. Christmas break up 12 noon. Bring a plate and something to drink	Tristan 3351 1930

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN JANUARY???

The Men of the Trees Saturday planting group will be spending the first three Saturdays of January 2005 on a range of outings. At this time we are considering:

- A day of bushwalking and picnicking at Mount Mee State Forest (near Dayboro)
- A day at the historical town of Rosewood (outside of Ipswich)
- A day of adventuring around Beaudesert Shire including history, arts and craft attractions

If anyone is interested in joining the Saturday group for these trips PLEASE CONTACT FRAN BY THE 18TH OF DECEMBER (38510858 or 2mottqld@tpg.com.au). Remember to wear your MOTT t-shirts if you have one.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND REUNION

Next year on 14 November it will be 25 years since MOTT began in Queensland and we are planning a reunion to celebrate.

During the next twelve months we will be looking to make contact with past and not so past members with a view to collecting photographs and other memorabilia for a trip down memory lane.

Please assist us to make the day one to remember! If you wish to contribute some photographs or memorabilia please contact Jim Dale on 263 5713



Season's greetings

Wishing all members a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year

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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