



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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MOTT TURNS 25

On 14 November, MOTT will have been operating for 25 years. The inaugural meeting was convened at the Relaxation Centre on 14 November 1980 and was attended by 24 people. It was followed up by an attendance of 92 people at the first public planting at Grenier Park in Acacia Ridge on May 3 1981.

Well would it be if we could attract these numbers to our plantings today!

Our achievement however is that we pioneered community group tree planting when it was virtually unknown in Brisbane and have lasted through a period when Landcare and Catchment Management became popular community group activities throughout Australia. During this period many similar groups have folded, while MOTT has soldiered on.

Congratulations everyone!

To celebrate, the management committee has decided to organize a morning (billy) tea and damper gathering at Twahamwe Cottage, Paten Road, The Gap at 10:00am (for 10:30am) on Friday 11 November. An advanced tree will be planted to recognize the occasion, and attendees will be invited to share their stories on the history of the organization in a yarning up session over a cuppa.

Tea, coffee, juice, damper etc will be supplied, but it would be appreciated if members could bring their own folding chairs.

To assist with the catering we would be grateful if present and past members could advise Fran of their intention to attend by ringing 3851 0858 or emailing her at 2mottqld@tpg.com.au

We would especially like to hear from past members, and those current members who support MOTT's objectives financially. Known raconteurs will be especially welcome.

Jim Dale
President

REPLACING GREEN MEANIES WITH NATIVE PLANTS

As a result of diverse habitat types there are approximately 24,000 species of native plants in Australia. Unfortunately, this is surpassed by the number of exotics – about 27,000 plants!

As part of the Greening Main Roads Corridors Program – a joint venture with the Queensland Government Department of Main Roads – Greening Australia Queensland (GAQ) will be trailing the use of a closely-related native species. *Murraya ovatifoliolata*, as an alternative to the exotic mock orange.

Previously known as *Murraya paniculate* var. *ovatifoliolata*, the native mock orange is found in drier rainforest communities in central and northern Queensland where it grows as an understorey or midstorey shrub, particularly along forest edges. It looks very similar to the exotic mock orange, and is distinguished by rounder, more olive-coloured foliage. Although slower growing than the exotic mock orange, the native mock-orange is hardy, drought tolerant and adaptable to both full sun and partial shade.

(Extract from *Greening Australia*)

OVERSEAS NEWS

Here is an update on overseas projects funded by the International Tree Foundation. (Formerly Men of the Trees in UK).

- ☼ Identity, Merge & Action of Faisalabad – Pakistan.
- ☼ Wankga Community Agroforestry Development Network of Mumias – Kenya.
- ☼ Local Empowerment Foundation in Misamis Oriental - Philippines.
- ☼ Bagurugu Integrated Agroforestry Development Association in Tamale – Ghana.
- ☼ Foundation of Rural Development at Karaikudi – Tamil Nadu
- ☼ Sunarma in Wof-sashu – Ethiopia.
- ☼ Mount Kenya Organic Farm – Nanyuki Region – Kenya

The Sunarma project aims to reclaim degraded land and establish woodlots. Land has been provided to youth groups who have demonstrated a clear commitment to help the younger generation.

LETTER FROM KEN GOLD TO SECRETARY, MEN OF THE TREES, CLAYFIELD, JULY 2005

Dear Secretary

I had occasion to visit Samsonvale Cemetery for a funeral last week. While in the area I took the liberty of ignoring the 'Keep Out' sign and walked through the hoop pine scrub, which my grandfather preserved when he pioneered his selection in 1869 and which my father and I continued to protect while we owned the property.

I was absolutely delighted with the restoration work that your group has carried out over the last few years. Gold's Scrub now looks like it did when our family was forced to vacate in 1973. It was great to see that the invasion of weeds, particularly the 'Cat's Claw' has been controlled. No doubt a continued monitoring of the possible regrowth of pests will be necessary. In our time we found that birds and flying foxes continually brought weed seeds, which germinated and required regular control campaigns.

Please thank and congratulate the team of workers who have achieved this significant result. As I travel the country I am shocked at the extent of the spread of Cat's Claw. Your group has proved that virtual eradication can be achieved and you can publish the means by which it can be done. I only wish that land owners and weed control authorities would take the problem more seriously. Indeed, lack of will and action to attack the massive nationwide weed problem is a matter of shame for all concerned.

As for the remainder of the property which is still above water line, it is most interesting to observe how natural processes, without assistance, are gradually returning the land to native forest following 105 years of selective clearing and grazing up to 1973. My father would be surprised and disgusted if he were to see how a small plantation of exotic pine trees have spread, almost like weeds, over the land. He certainly did not envisage the vigorous invasion of the land which occurred once grazing ceased.

Best wishes for your group.

Yours faithfully

Ken Gold.

MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE – 2005

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

Date & Time	Location	Activity	Contact
Nov 5th 9-12	Gubberley Creek, ,Gubberley St., Kenmore	Weeding, planting and watering trees	Kerry 3289 9206
12th 9-12	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station, Tramway St, Ferry Grove	Weeding and maintenance	The Team (Fran 3851 0858)
19th 9-12	Across street from 207 Taringa Pde & opposite Equinox St. near Freeway	Removal of exotic grasses and planting of native trees. Mulching and watering	Pam Rudder 3878 9505
26th 8:30am - noon	Gold Scrub, Gold's Scrub Rd. Samsonvale	Weeding and Revegetation Lunch at Samsonvale Pub	Sandra W 3902 4416 Carole 3425 1527
Dec 3rd 9-12	Holy Spirit Anglican Church 1036 Moggill Rd, Kenmore	Weed, Plant, Mulch, Water	Kerry 3289 9205
10th 9am Meeting -11:15 Lunch- 12:30	Bardon Girl Guide Hut	Planting, Management Meeting, Lunch. Please bring a plate	Marion –3366 1448- Planting- Fran- 3851 0858- Food
17th ???	???	Anything?? Coffee? Shopping? Planting?	
24th	Christmas Eve	No planting	

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

TAKE A DEEP BREATH

New Scientist (6 August 2005) featured an article by Joan Maloof, assistant professor of biology at Salisbury University in Maryland, US.

She reminds her students that when forests are cut we miss the sight or the shade or the species but often forget the air. This dimension of the forest's allure is recognised by some and known as wood air bathing.

Researchers have discovered that when diabetic patients walk through the forest, their blood sugar drops to healthier levels. Symposiums have been held on the benefits of wood air bathing and walking.

Professor Maloof says that a walk in the woods can do great things for your body and mind. This is not surprising since trees emit dozens of therapeutic compounds through their leaves.

Richard St Barbe Baker 'recharged his batteries' through his hands on trunks of great trees. He was sensitive to the invisible connections and believed that man's health is a reflection of the health of the earth.

Joan Maloof ponders the possibility that perhaps by trying to save the forests we are trying to save the earth.

Take a deep breath when you walk in the woods.

Extract from BCC "Habitat Brisbane" - Neighbourhood Groups Save Brisbane Bushland

PRESERVING BRISBANE'S GREATEST ASSET – OUR BUSHLAND

Brisbane has the highest diversity of mammals and birds of any Australian capital city, largely due to the wide range of vegetation types and habitats in the city.

These are found mainly in the form of bushland remnants but they are under constant threat of degradation from weed infestation, the dumping of garden waste such as lawn clippings and loss of native plants and wildlife.

The good news from Brisbane City Council is that the local community are working in partnership to preserve and regenerate our greatest asset – our bushland.

A wide cross-section of the community, including school students, families and retirees, are involved in groups who have adopted bushland remnants in their neighbourhood.

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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