



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

TELEPHONE No (07) 3263 5713

PO Box 283 CLAYFIELD QLD 4011

www.menofthetrees.org.au

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FRAN AND THE SATURDAY PLANTING GROUP

Five years ago the Saturday planting group under the guiding hand of Fran Gilje really came to grips with the task they had set themselves. To plant trees and to maintain them in keeping with the long held ethos of Men of the Trees.

2001 marked the occasion of the Centenary of Federation and MOTT honoured the event in style with the development of the Bowen Bridge Heritage Track. This was possible thanks to a grant from the Federation granting body. The planting group was involved with other community groups. There was some most welcome young and energetic support from 40 American College students.

Jim Dale became President of MOTT and the momentum generated by the events of 2001 carried the planting group through to embrace numerous projects. All of these were undertaken in partnership with other community groups.

In Twahamwe May 2002 the newsletter started a new section titled Volunteer Profile. The first profile was 'Fantastic Fran Gilje'. Fran hails from Canada and decided to settle in Brisbane in the late 1990's. She is passionate about MOTT and has developed close friendships with the members of the Saturday planting group.

She has taken on the role of scheduling their activities and is the first contact for phone calls. As a former teacher of Music and Design she has a range of skills at her fingertips. She has emerged as a dedicated

coordinator holding her small group together with a balance of MOTT activities and socializing. She has organised some splendid celebratory functions at Twahamwe Cottage at The Gap. She played a key role in planning the Kedron Brook planting day. This was an outstanding success when 200 people planted over 5000 trees and enjoyed the lunch provided by MOTT members and other community groups coordinated by Fran in 2002.

To mention a few of the projects – Lake Samsonvale revegetation begun in 1987 is now an ongoing endeavour embracing the freeing of the remnant hoop pine stand from the clutches of Cat's Claw creeper and other unwelcome plants. There were two revegetation projects along Gubberley Creek; an invitation from Lutwyche Bushcare Group to plant with them was accepted; planting with the Stradbroke Bushcare Group was an interesting 'overseas' weekend adventure.

In 2003 the group spread its influence with Jim Dale's guidance to projects in Pine Rivers Shire; the Taringa Parade project began; trees were planted with the Erapah Catchment Bushcare group in 2003; and so the list goes on. By now Fran had established a regular 6 month schedule which was duly printed in the newsletter. This group of 10 to 12 planters remains dedicated to their tasks.

It was a lucky day when Fran decided to make Brisbane her home. Thank you Fran and your Saturday planting group.

AROUND AUSTRALIA WITH MOTT

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW, with a membership of 50, has not undertaken any plantings in 2006 on account of the dry weather. In her Annual Report President Diana Kureen says NSW MOTT has not grown any trees this year and most plantings along the Hawkesbury were again not possible. Some Councils have also ceased planting for the same reason.

President Diana believes there will be changes as to how the organisation operates and particularly as new planting sites become harder to find.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Vagaries of the climate have had an effect on the preparation of seedlings for the Farm Tree Help Scheme. Late arrival of rain delayed picking up of orders from the St Barbe Nursery at Hazelmere. When the wet set in there was a scurry to get the plants into the ground. Two sites at which several thousand small trees were planted were blessed with pouring rain over the next few days.

WA MOTT has undertaken some challenging sites. In 2000 at Dowering they began work on an 11 hectare site which was badly salt affected. Theories have been tested, humus content of the soil has been built up, beds have been raised to effect some micro drainage and lots and lots of trees have been planted. Some of the trees show remarkable adaptation to the salty conditions. Where they have taken they are sturdy and well nourished without signs of stress or nutrient deficiency.

In 1992 WA MOTT set up Amery Acres to have a space of their own in the central wheat belt where they could try out best ideas for growing trees on farms. They looked for trees which yielded fruits and nuts, fodder, foliage and flower trees which might provide the farmer with income without actually having to cut them down. The Carob tree bean has proved of value for fodder, the oil mallees have advantages for farmers. The latest plantings include Sandalwood *Santalum spicatum*.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The main activities are The Tree Scheme, Bush for Life and Direct Seeding.

The Tree Scheme volunteers grow 1 million local native seedlings a year to plant on rural properties for revegetation projects around South Australia.

Bush for Life involves the community in saving SA's rapidly disappearing bushland. Bushcarers undertake to restore a patch of bush and maintain it in good condition. Bush for Life trains volunteers to help manage this fragile habitat.

Direct Seeding is good for large scale revegetation using a wide range of species. From the Murray Mallee across the Flinders Ranges and down to the Fleurieu Peninsula the TFL direct seeding programme is operating. Seed is collected close to the area being treated.

It is interesting to note the varied activities and methods undertaken by different states around Australia. The climate, soil type and location have significant bearing on the success of the choice of activity. Very obvious is the loss of biodiversity, plant and animal extinction, soil erosion, weed invasion and increased salinity. Revegetation and maintenance of existing vegetation are actions vital for the country's environmental future.

VICTORIA

Several years ago MOTT in Victoria combined with the Ybarra Bend Revegetation group.

MEN OF THE TREES SCHEDULE – JANUARY TO JUNE 2007

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

Activities, depending on availability of water, will include: weeding, planting, mulching, watering etc.

Except for Gold's Scrub (8:30am) we normally work from 9am-12:30pm.

Please notify Fran before Christmas if you wish to go on one of the January or February trips.

Date	Location	Contact
Jan 13th	Jimna State Forest (Kilcoy) Bring picnic lunch	Jim Dale- 3263 5713
20 th	Champion Trees of Mapleton- Meet at 10:30 a.m At the start of Delicia Rd opposite Lillyponds.	Marion – 3366 1448 Peter Richards- 5445 7361
27 th	Gold's Scrub, Gold's Scrub Road, Samsonvale	Laura –3902 4448 or Angie—3902 4412 or Carole –3379 1453
Feb 3rd	Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 1036 Mogill Rd, Kenmore ... followed by strategy (planning) meeting	Kerry 3289 9205 Jim.. 3263 5713
10 th	77 Wooley St., Taringa	Dick Cribb..3371 3185 & Marion 3366 1448
17 th	Gubberley Creek, Gubberley St. Kenmore	Kerry... 3289 9206
24 th	Cabbage Tree Creek off Yingally Drive, Ferny Hills (Wightman Reserve near children's playground)	Amanda Fox 3480 6745 Mob. 0437 439 774 Fran 3851 0858
Mar 3rd	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah St. creek side... Bardon	Marion.... 3366 1448
10 th	Extension of the Girl Guide area, Coolibah St. creek side... Bardon	Marion ... 3366 1448
17 th	Across the street from 207 Taringa Pde .near Freeway	Pam 3870 0950 Kerry...3289 9206
24 th	Gold's Scrub, Gold's Scrub Rd. Samsonvale	Laura –3902 4448 or Angie—3902 4412 or Carole –3379 1453
31 st	Cedar Creek – behind Police Station, Tramway St.Ferny Grove.	Kerry ...3289 9205 Tristan..0416 478 615

Invitation to all MOTT members - we need your input!

Please join us for a special

Planning Meeting

*or think tank - think outside the square -
on the future direction of Men of the Trees Inc Qld*

at 1.00pm on Saturday 3 February 2007

at the Holy Spirit Anglican Church,

1036 Mogill Rd, Kenmore.

We would like to hear what you think.

What are your ideas for our future?

Strategic plans?

Afternoon tea will be served.

Please RSVP to Fran 3851 0858

or email us your ideas:

enews@menofthetrees.org.au

ARBOR DAY 2006

The Queensland Arbor Day Awards were presented at the Brisbane Forest Park Headquarters on 10 October. These awards recognise the huge contribution made by groups and individuals around Queensland, who plant and care for native vegetation and create valuable shade in rural and urban areas.

Finalists travelled from as far as Townsville, Ravensbourne and Wide Bay.

Group Award: Friends of Federation Walk, Southport

Individual Award: Phil and Jan MacDonald, Mirani

School Award: Bald Hills State

Corporate Award: Future Forests, Esk

Local Government Award: Townsville City Council

Golden Spade and Shade Award: Townsville City Council



Twahamwe is now available via email.

If you would like to receive the Men of the Trees newsletter
via email please send an email to the newsletter editor at:

enews@menofthetrees.org.au

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