



**MEN OF THE TREES**



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

# TWAHAMWE

The official publication of THE MEN OF THE TREES Inc., Queensland Branch

Patron: The Prince of Wales

Founder: The late Dr. Richard St Barba Baker O.B.E.

TWAHAMWE IS SWAHILI FOR ALL TOGETHER or PULL TOGETHER

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## GENERATIONS OF MOTT



At a recent planting at the Regis Parkland Manor Aged Care Facility at Ferny Grove, the planters were honoured with a visit by Ngairretta Brennan. Ms Brennan (centre) was one of the founders of MOTT Queensland more than thirty years ago.

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## GARDENING GLOVES ... YES OR NO?

Cheryl Maddocks

I love getting my hands dirty when digging around in the soil. Some gardeners wear gloves, but there's a good reason I sometimes don't.

A few years ago, researchers at Bristol University and University College London discovered the friendly bacterium *Mycobacterium vaccae*, commonly found in soil, may have an effect on the brain similar to antidepressants.

Evidently the bacterium activates brain cells to produce the chemical, serotonin, which is involved in mood regulation. So I don't get myself dirty for the sake of it but to get a legal high. Perhaps bugs are as good as drugs.

This was taken from an article published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* and contributed by Gerry Dunford ... contributions are always welcome, folks.

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MOTT Qld Inc acknowledges the support of the Queensland Government through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.



## MOTT CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

With too much to do over the Silly Season, our last planting will be at Parkview Drive (the new Paten Park site) on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, many will meet at The Green Mango Thai restaurant, shop 3, 480 Waterworks Road, West Ashgrove, for our final get together of the year.

It will be a luncheon gathering and for *paid up planters* will be MOTT's treat.

It has a BYO licence (and there is a bottle shop opposite should you need it).

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## LACKING TREES? CALL IN MEN OF THE TREES!

Charles Ivin (KBCB)

Last August my wife, Jenny, and I enjoyed the experience of travelling from Perth to Adelaide on the Indian-Pacific train. Looking through our gold class sleeper window, we were enthralled on the next morning to see 'the beauty and the splendour' of the Nullarbor Plain rolling by.



'Nullarbor', comes from the Latin: 'absence of trees'. Although the sun highlights fascinating colours over this great

flat land, the vegetation in the area is primarily low saltbush and blue bush scrub and often, only poor grasses, reddish limestone soil and rock debris. Apparently, this huge plain was formed from a former shallow seabed.

About two-thirds across the world record 478 kilometres straight-section of railway line on this plain we arrived at the very small outback town of Cook. It used to be populated with two hundred people but now is virtually abandoned with only four people living there.

Behind the station, we were attracted to a huge rock in the form of an obelisk. A plaque near its top reads:

'MEN OF THE TREES 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1982. 5 members each from Adelaide and Perth brought 600 donated trees to plant around the town with Cook school children to celebrate The Year of the Tree and initiate the Greening of Australia.'

There you are... Men Of The Trees will take on the challenge to plant trees nearly ANYWHERE!

Now back in Brisbane, we noted that our handout, 'Cook - Self Guided Walk' stated that, 'In 2006, one thousand trees were planted... Some trees survived and now stand as some of the tallest trees in the Nullarbor, providing natural shade from the harsh desert sun.'

Although this suggests that at least two energetic waves of planting took place, the area and number of trees remaining is now rather small. It's evident that the privatisation



of the railway operation in recent times has reduced staff to only a few people remaining at Cook. Sadly, it's unlikely anyone will be able to have time and resources to maintain these wonderful trees within Cook.

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## KNOW THINE ENEMY

### Cobbler's Pegs

Also known as Farmers Friend, Pitchforks or Sticky Beak, this annual that can grow to two metres high flowers throughout the year. It is found in disturbed areas exposed to full sun.



The leaves are opposite and divided into 3-5 lance-shaped segments with serrated edges. Bright green whilst young, leaves can develop tinges of red and brown on maturity. Flowers that can range from white through to yellow appear all year.

It's prolific black seeds are slender and 1cm long and have two barbed awns borne in a globular head; they attach easily to clothing, hair, fur ... as Peter Amabile knows only too well.



Peter Amabile's forearm – Photo, Patrick Peek

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## Three Cheers For ...

There are many people who help MOTT in a lot of ways, people who are not necessarily MOTT members but who are there when we need them and who contribute a great deal to the smooth operation of our work; one such person is Darren Robertson.

Darren was born in Melbourne where he spent his first 10 years. His father was in the army so the family moved around a bit (several different schools) including some years in New Guinea. They ended up in Brisbane and decided to settle here.

As the leader of the Parks Maintenance Team of the Enoggera Ward of the Brisbane City Council, Darren and his team look after parks from Upper Kedron to Newmarket and anything in between.



Darren has been doing this for fifteen years and loves his job ... and you can tell! He not only arranges loads of mulch or a water delivery for us but he stays to help, spreading the mulch and doing anything else with which he can lend a hand.



Asked what it was that he loved about the job, he said, “Everything! Outdoors, the work, exercise, playing with chainsaws, bobcats, that sort of thing; big boys’ toys”.

It is nice to be able to rely on people when you need them, especially when, like Darren, they are friendly, approachable and willing to join in.

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And speaking of people outside of MOTT that are a great help to us, we have continued to have support from Bretts Hardware and Laser Revive ...



## ... but not from Billy Connolly

Some time ago, I turned the television on at 9.30 on Saturday night to watch a programme on The Beatles (now you know how old I am!) The programme that preceded it, *Billy Connolly: Journey to the Edge of the World* had not finished so I watched, in the expectation that it was about to.

He was in the Arctic with some Tlingit Indians, shooting seals!

A week later, I tuned in to watch a documentary on Elizabeth Taylor and the auction of her jewellery (it brought \$US135 million incidentally).

Again, the Billy Connolly programme was running overtime and this time he was with lumberjacks in Canada. They felled a magnificent, stately tree and I have to say that I wept as I saw this tree, probably hundreds of years old, crash to the ground.

Not so Billy Connolly, who whooped and yelled and cheered and congratulated the lumberjack.

But worse – now it was his turn and, like a boy being given his first chance to shoot a rabbit, he seized the chain saw and felled another tree ... again, more whooping, cheering and back-slapping.

I have known for some time that he is a foul-mouthed man but now, clearly, he, too, is the enemy!

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## URBAN UTILITIES

MOTT members joined in at Everton Park to help Urban Utilities plant a lot of trees at Teralba Park South



Urban Utilities organizers started the day by reminding everybody that it was snake season, and so to they should be on the lookout; at which all the volunteers looked around nervously and half of them headed for the hills! (Of course I'm exaggerating).

A good turnout of volunteers saw all the trees planted by 10.00 and then guarding and watering start.



MOTT's Phillip Dooley getting into it  
Photos by Patrick Peak.

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## MEET THE PLANTERS

### Genevieve O'Brien.

We all love Genevieve O'Brien. Not only is she a regular planter, committed and a good worker, but she reduces the average age of the planters considerably ... to about 40! It really is nice to have some energetic young planters.

This can be a problem, of course, when one is interviewing somebody young and a question about music preferences brings forth answers like “Green Day” and other groups of which I have never heard. And we don't watch the same TV programmes either. I show my age by loving *The Golden Girls* and the blank look on her face makes me realize that that series had virtually finished before she was born.

Genevieve is a born and bred Brisbane girl – born in Lutwyche in fact. Her parents met in the Air Force but Genevieve didn't have the usual military upbringing of often moving schools. She went to Pine Rivers High School and didn't have any particular ambitions



to become a brain surgeon or lawyer but was, and is, optimistic and open to opportunity.

I sometimes ask people to describe their life in three well-chosen words. I'm not really serious about it, but Genevieve had them ready – Opportunity, Experience and Optimism. I'm not sure that that describes her life as much as her very positive outlook on it.

Genevieve works for East Coast Bullbars at Clontarf, in the Accounts Payable department, and while she is happy with her job, she sometimes thinks that she would like something a bit more challenging and with more variety; she works better under stress.

While she is OK with accounts payable, she doesn't know a great deal about bullbars so the career opportunities seem a bit limited at the moment. I suggested, half jokingly, that she go to TAFE and do a welding course and she was open to the idea ... to experience the opportunity. After all, Norman Rockwell's "Rosie the Riveter" could just as easily be

Genevieve the Welder and it would mean fewer hours to work and more money.



With the many interviews I have done "Meeting the Planters", I have heard a lot of reasons that brought people to MOTT but this one was a bit different. Genevieve was in a pretty unsatisfactory relationship, which came to a head when she and her partner were to do a forty-hour famine. He wasn't prepared to see it through, which she realized was pretty symptomatic of the relationship so she "finally escaped". Naturally she was feeling a bit blue (we've all been there!) and at a bit of a loss so she was looking for something that she could do, preferably at weekends and something that would fit in with her gym sessions. So she came to MOTT and what kept her coming was that, "Everyone's been nice".

And she has made a real commitment to MOTT because she lives at Kallangur and comes all that way every Saturday morning to join in the planting group. And isn't that good! It's so nice to have a bit of youthful energy, particularly when there's commitment and a willingness to work attached.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Jean Shipway whom we met at the launch of Camoola Street. Jean, one of the residents, obviously liked us so much she has been coming to other Saturday morning plantings.

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## THE WEBSITE

You may remember that during the election time, when Campbell Newman used us for a photo opportunity to win the Green vote, also there that morning, was Ann Marie Barnes, the grand-daughter of Richard St. Barbe Baker. Ann Marie was there making her MOTT video, *Tree Inspired*. The video is now on our website. Just click on the post.

On the homepage bar, you will see LINKS. If you click on that, it will reveal MOTT websites throughout Australia and around the world.

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## HEALING NAIROBI

There was a feature on TV about trees being planted to honour the victims of the Shopping Centre massacre in Nairobi. 67 trees were planted in memory of the 67 people shot dead by the gunmen. A time of healing for those whose loss is still so recent.

"It's amazing what they've done" said Nairobi resident, Rapul Metul Shah. "We're so humbled, we're so honoured to be here. Tree planting is such a noble cause and through this, Metil and all the others who were victimized are going to live with us forever".

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## TREE SISTERS

"TreeSisters is an audacious campaign fuelled by the love and creativity of every-day women. We are building a global network to help reforest the tropics within 10 years, and we're just getting started. If you want to see this vision become a reality, then step in now and help us grow the roots! We need you, please join us".

So reads the introduction to the TREESISTERS website. Their plan is to help make it normal for everyone to give money for trees every month, to help reforest the tropics and is as much about the empowerment of women as it is about reforestation. It is an invitation for women to pitch their energies towards the creation of a world that values both women and nature as a new norm.

The organization seeks to engage and empower diverse women to join, spread and amplify the movement with their own creativity, experience and courage and to co-create a meta-reforestation strategy with existing tree organizations to lay out a plan for how to help reforest the tropics within 10



years.

There is a video introduction on their website at <http://www.treesisters.org/http://www.treesisters.org/>

## LYME DISEASE

Louise Orr is the SEQ Catchments representative on the QLD Feral Deer Working Group. She has concerns regarding Lyme disease amongst bush carers and, it turns out, that Biosecurity QLD and QLD Health are interested in looking at this issue. As a starting point they are looking to formally identify locations for potential monitoring and collections programs to take place. So perhaps, at last, governments are beginning to acknowledge that this debilitating disease *is* in Australia and

this may be promising in terms of research.

If any of you would like to forward Louise the locations of the areas where you, or people you know, believe they may have contracted Lyme Disease from tick bites, she would forward these locations through to Biosecurity QLD.

Communicable Diseases Network Australia established a Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease earlier this year and the above research can be used to inform this national committee. Down the track there is potential for a community monitoring program for those interested. See website here: <http://www.health.gov.au/lyme-disease>



December to February 2014

**The most up-to-date version of this schedule can be found on the MOTT website:**

<http://www.menofthetrees.org.au>

Questions? Check with the coordinator, or with Fran 3851 0858

Date	Planting location	Coordinator
Saturday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	PATEN PARK NEW SITE – PLANTING Parkview Drive, The Gap or enter Paten Park as usual, walk downtrack to right just before bridge leading to nursery.	Kerry 3289 9206
Saturday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	MOTT CHRISTMAS GATHERING Details in the December <i>Twahamwe</i> or refer to website	Fran 3851 0858
Saturday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>	PATEN PARK (OLD SITE) Near Scout Den Paten Road, The Gap PLANTING & MAINTENANCE	Kerry 3289 9206 Marion 3366 1448 0413 483 833
Saturday, January 11 <sup>th</sup>	YINGALLY STREET Part of Wightman Reserve, Arana Hills PLANTING & MAINTENANCE	Wendy 0437 439 774
Saturday, January 18 <sup>th</sup>	CASSIMATY PARK Samford Road, Ferny Grove PLANTING & MAINTENANCE	Marion 3366 1448 0413 483 833
Saturday, January 25 <sup>th</sup>	BROSELEY ROAD, TOOWONG BCC owned spare allotment half-way down road, on right-hand side PLANTING, MULCHING & MAINTENANCE	Marion 3366 1448 0413 483 833

<b>Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>PATEN PARK NEW SITE – PLANTING</b> Parkview Drive, The Gap or enter Paten Park as usual, walk downtrack to right just before bridge leading to nursery. <b>PLANTING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	Kerry- 3289 9206
<b>Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BUNYA RIVERSIDE (WONGAN CREEK)</b> Bunya Crossing on South Pine River. UBD 107, Q20. Either drive to end of Dugandan Rd., then down track to Bunya Crossing. If working on Wongan Creek, drive through drawgate and picnic area and up Wongan Creek to planting site. Or near end of Dugandan Road, take Allen Rd on left, first right at Weston Drive, first right at Banks Court, park car, and walk down grassy easement to site on Wongan Creek. <b>PLANTING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	Wendy 0437 439 774
<b>Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>REGIS PARKLAND MANOR AGED CARE FACILITY</b> 39 Lanita Rd, Ferny Grove <b>PLANTING AND WEEDING</b>	Marion 3366 1448 0413 483 833
<b>Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>KEPERRA PICNIC GROUNDS (OLD NTD SITE)</b> Cnr Samford Road & Upper Kedron Road Ferny Grove <b>PLANTING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	Marion 3366 1448 0413 483 833



The Men of the Trees Inc.

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For May 1st 2013-April 30th 2014

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Your valued support enables The Men of the Trees to continue the vital role of tree planting.

Jim MacDonald  
Membership Secretary

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