

# A LETTER TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARBORICULTURAL PROFESSION ON BEHALF OF NATURACULTURE

**DEAR AAA READERS AND AUSSIE CONTRACTUAL AND CONSULTING ARBORISTS AUSTRALIA WIDE, I AM WRITING TO INFORM YOU THAT I AM STEPPING DOWN FROM CONVENTIONAL PROFESSIONAL ARBORICULTURE TO COMMENCE A NEW LIFE AND A NEW CALLING.**



a soldier. But I have never seen a good enough reason to go to war, as like many free thinking westerners I mistrust the history, politics and conduct of our western governments concerning modern conflict (post WW2). My way of gaining a sense of the warrior has been through 20 years practice of martial arts – currently I am a competitor and instructor with Western Martial Arts School GLECA – Glen Lachlan Estate College of Arms (Melbourne and Brisbane).

Then earlier this year my wife introduced me to the social networking group – Kony 2012, an organisation committed to global awareness and action relating to Joseph Kony and the LRA – the Lord’s Resistance Army, which is without question the most evil group of murderers on the planet who target children for their use as child soldiers and sex slaves.

In the face of my outrage and perceived inability to help the children of East Africa (Southern Sudan and Uganda) I have sat on the fence, unable to believe that I or any western individual can really make a difference.

That is until I heard of Reverend Sam Childers, made famous by the new release movie “Machine Gun Preacher” with Gerard Butler. Being busy I watched the movie over two nights thinking that it was just another Hollywood movie. That was until I saw the credits and realised this wasn’t just based on a true story but is a true story.

Since then I have googled Sam’s organisation “Angels of East Africa”, written to him, seen him preach (Brisbane), met him and have just finished reading his 2009 book “Another Man’s War.”

Over the last 14 years Sam has established three orphanages in areas of East Africa where, due to violence and politics, organisations like the UN and the Red Cross won’t tread. With his tiny group of Sudanese soldiers from the SPLA (the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army) Sam has led, rescued (in direct conflict with the LRA) and housed more than 3000 children.

Not being a trained soldier, though willing to fight, I am not in a position to offer militaristic help. However, having spent the last five years guinea-pigging a super food diet, being aware of the science behind super foods and the soil food web as well as being a highly developed arborist and consultant, I am in a position to help with a new human cultural movement – I call Naturaculture.

Naturaculture was my recent business name, however I have reverted back to trading under my own name, as well as downsize my business by selling my new 4x4 and brand new motorbike/work trailer, this being a means to reduce my overheads to make study/organisation time to raise revenue and support for help in East Africa. Please, see the Classifieds on page **XX** for my 4x4 and trailer that I am keen to sell as part of my preparation process. Any tree business or individual that purchases these will be cited as sponsors of Naturaculture.

Naturaculture is Latin for the culture of nature, like Arboriculture is Latin for the culture of trees, and Horticulture the culture of gardens. Naturaculture is a synthesis of these disciplines (of which I am qualified and experienced in both) similar to Permaculture, the variation being Naturaculture is a form of vegetation

management based on the generation of natural ecosystems, or the plant and soil food component thereof.

To aid me with my commitment to Reverend Sam Childers and the children of East Africa I have set up Naturaculture as a Not for Profit organisation. Our new company with three directors is set up with the objectives of:

- To research, develop and implement environmentally sustainable plant production systems for charitable organisations in Australia and overseas.
- To provide funding for this through professional vegetation management services, sponsorship, government grants, public or private donation (or any source available) in Australia and overseas.”

With the development of Naturaculture I will be sharing updates via the Australian Arbor Age. It is my intention to open Naturaculture up for sponsorship and business in Australia as part of preparation for our first three month field trip at the South Sudan orphanage, starting early 2013.

Our goal being to establish nutrient dense plantations to both offer optimal nutrition to the children as well as in the long term help finance the orphanage.

With the African Baobab tree – *Adansonia digitata* recently short listed as one of the world’s top super food plants we are keen to help the orphanage to cash in on what is expected to be a future billion dollar enterprise. With our arboricultural expertise and equipment donations we will set up and teach the orphans to sustain nutrient beds for the generation of a range of super food plant crops.

The first major piece of news is that I am not alone as I have the support of fellow highly conditioned Queensland arborist Paul Ash, who is now one of our directors as well as being an ex Australian soldier. My wife Suzanne (professional educator) and I are also company directors.

In my next letter to Kurt Quambusch on behalf of the AAA in the October/ November 2012 edition I will be outlining the support/goods I am keen to acquire

through sponsorship and donation as part of my first shipment to the South Sudan orphanage. Talking of sponsorship I am proud to announce that Eastern Tree Service has given me permission to take my course on Australian trees (developed between 2005 and 2010 – designed to assist tree contractors and consultants to better understand trees, their physiology and biomechanics) on an Australia wide tour. The course largely developed by me when I was senior consultant with ETS is now available to our profession with all proceeds going to Naturaculture.

In closing, within this Arbor Age edition is a recent ETS/Energex report of mine relating to canker Rot Fungi active in SE Qld (Phellinus robustus and Phellinus lamaensis).

This article on canker rot is a prelude to my publication of a third ETS/Energex report relating to a disorder affecting gums SE Queensland wide, this unknown disorder I have named Canker Syndrome.

The data relating to the disorder I have been gathering over the last four years involves a syndrome not yet known to Australian science. It’s kind of fitting that I leave mainstream arboriculture with this work, as I see the publication of this project as my greatest contribution to Australian arboriculture to date. I hope that with the advice that I give in the conclusion that Arboriculture Australia adopts a collaborative approach to managing the effects of the disorder in a way that is harmonious to the environment.

Thanks for your attention, look out for news from Naturaculture, I and some very in-need children require your help. Note – I have long maintained that the highest life forms on planet earth are the tree for what it gives humanity and the child for its embodiment of God. But the way I see it is simple, until humanity can truly value our children then the tree has no hope.

**Regards,  
Cassian Humphreys AA**

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