

## From Trees To Forests

If reading is not your favourite pastime then the programme put out by The Marriage Educators of Australia – South Australian branch is for you. There are 13 sections in the book and each section is about 3 pages in length – but much of the 2 or 3 page sections are taken up with wonderful photos – of trees – not couples. In the forward of the book the writers have this to say:

Imagine your marriage is like two trees in a forest. Trees have grown before you. Trees will grow where you have grown. All through your life you share the forest with other trees.

Like trees, your life and your marriage have the potential to make a significant contribution to the community and world in which you live.

What is your VISION and what steps will you take towards your contribution? Come for a walk through the forest and consider some aspects of your growth; individually and in your relationship.

Chapter 2 – *Chips off the old block* looks at family of origin. Chapter 4 is called *Barking up the wrong tree* and looks at conflict resolution. The programme looks at many other subjects including intimacy, stress, finance, children and values.

Each chapter or section begins with a quote from a well-known figure – Jean Vanier, Hugh Mackay, Psalms, Michael Quoist and others are all used to illustrate a particular section. These excerpts are then followed by a short statement by the authors on the particular chapter. Each section concludes with some questions for discussion. I am very impressed on the one hand by the simplicity of the programmes format – indeed by its brevity – but also by its ability to confront the complexity of marriage and by its preparedness to ask the tough questions.

I have bought 10 copies of the programme for the Resource Centre. I am happy to lend this to any team anywhere in Australia. I don't expect that these will last long on the Resource Centre Shelves, and I do hope that they are permanently on loan. If you are interested in me sending you a copy, you can phone me on 0354 426108

*Angela Allen*