

A TREE OF DISTINCTION

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The photograph on page 19 shows a jarrah tree of good form and vigour which I consider warrants recording and retaining from further logging or clearing for pine establishment.

What distinguishes this particular tree is not so much its good form and predominance over the surrounding forest as its apparent capacity to retain its vigour, despite the obvious presence of Phytophthora cinnamomi. I have been observing this tree for the past 5 years, during which time it has shown none of the usual dieback symptoms. Phytophthora cinnamomi has been present for considerably longer than this, as evidenced by the typical degraded nature of the forest in the vicinity. Adjacent jarrah trees are showing typical dieback symptoms, though others also remain healthy. Dead and dying native pear (Xylomelum occidentale) and blackboys occur within 20 metres of its butt.

This tree may have been spared the ravages of Phytophthora simply because it has not so far been attacked. Some peculiarity of the site that is not readily apparent may be inhibiting its spread. If such is the case, then it could promptly die if and when it is attacked. To prove that this tree has some genetic quality which endows it with resistance to Phytophthora would require expensive testing, possibly involving the difficult process of vegetative reproduction. Nevertheless, the evidence suggests that it could be resistant and therefore steps should be taken to ensure that it has the chance to demonstrate what may be a very valuable characteristic.

The tree is located in typical sunklands soil in Millbrook Block, map reference FT.37.54. It can be seen projecting above the general canopy level at the eastern end of a large pine plot, about 100 metres south of the Busselton-Nannup road.

Measurements taken are: -	G.B.H.	1.13 m
	Total Height	30.2 m
	Bole Height	18.9 m



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