



GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK

— B A L I N G U P —

An Arboretum for the Long Haul ~2013 Newsletter

As the spring brings gales and heavy rain ~ both good and bad weather for trees ~ our management at GVTP is focussed on the long haul, dealing with issues that need sorting to set up our park for decades to come. Topping the list is secure land tenure with the Department of Parks and Wildlife so that the “gentlemanly” political agreement of 33 years duration gets formal recognition. But other issues press too: we will need your input over the coming year on a new Park Management Plan, including a long-term business plan, so that the Park’s management structure outlasts the dedicated committee members that have given half a lifetime to establishing the largest arboretum in WA in Balingup.

Last but not least, as a Committee we are dedicated to raising funds to upgrade the quality & resilience of our tree collection for the new climate and the tree weather ahead. Fortunately our fairly conservative planting policy over the years gives us a tree collection that has largely taken a rainfall reduction of a third in its stride. Our trees are generally strong. However some of the Park’s trees do need maintenance work. For instance storm damage seems to be increasing and the odd old fellow, from our 100 year plus heritage plantings, need canopy trims, whilst some younger trees need haircuts too, or thinning out. A tree collection is a dynamic entity. This work has been done in the past largely by volunteers but it is difficult, technical and time consuming. Frankly we are falling behind in our arboriculture because it’s far easier to get grants or volunteer effort for tree planting or new tracks than it is for looking after what is established. Sadly it’s one of the draw backs of our government funding system.

So we are seeking your support to think about donating to the Park over the coming year to help set up the Park for the long haul:

- By joining as a Friend of GVTP for \$20 per year
- through a donation to our tax deductible TREE MAINTENANCE FUND
- through sponsoring a tree or a beaut new Jarrah bench
- buying lovely Tree Park cards from the Balingup Visitors Centre
- coming to the Spring fundraising PICNIC

Coming to the party too, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, for whom Golden Valley is a bit of a star community project, are planning repairs of our wooden gates and signage and have significantly put in for increased maintenance too, such a ride-on mower for the Park.

Together let’s set up an arboretum for the long haul! Thank You.

Your Tree Park Committee: Dr Chrissy Sharp (Chair) Andy Sandri (DPaW, Deputy) Andrew Thamo (Dendrologist) Pete Hicks (Permaculturalist) Margie Miskimmin (Hon Sec) Ron Bullard (Hon Treasurer) Wendy Ayers (Friends of GVTP) Bob Hingston (Forester) Wayne O’Sullivan (Ecologist) Brian Martin (Silviculturalist)