



GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK
— B A L I N G U P —

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016

WELCOME all supporters to GVTP's Winter 2016 newsletter. What an extra glorious autumn it was at GVTP this year.

We are not the only ones to think so, either. GVTP was named by QANTAS Travel Insider as being "One of the Five Best Places to See Autumn Colours". How's that! Read more at

<http://travelinsider.qantas.com.au/experiences/nature/the-five-best-places-in-australia-to-see-autumn-colours>

UPGRADES TO VISITOR FACILITIES

We were delighted that our application for funding under the Royalties for Regions, Community Chest Fund was successful this year. The funding will bring power and lighting to the World Collection gazebo and Cleveland Oak Trees areas and the internal structure of the Gazebo will be revamped and fitted out with a new roof. The upgrades will be appreciated by all visitors and provide better facilities for booked events such as weddings.

The upgrades are part of a 5-year plan to further develop tourism infrastructure in the Tree Park. "The Plan" including the Australian Collection picnic area development got a boost recently when DPaW was able to provide funding earlier than anticipated for much needed toilets. Work has started already. Combined with the lovely new picnic shelter, a better parking area and beautiful walks nearby, the AC picnic area will prove a popular additional attraction. Thanks to all who have contributed so far to these exciting improvements. Planning will soon start on a nature walk and a tree house in the oak grove.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GVTP Annual Spring Picnic Saturday, 15th October 2016. A handover to the next generation who are organising the event for us this year.

At 3.00pm take a guided walk and enjoy the World Collection in its spring glory with Dr Chrissy Sharp. Keep informed at

<https://www.facebook.com/Goldenvalleytreeparkspringpicnic>

Busy Bees: Australian Collection - thinning of Mallets and planting new Gimlets took place 23/7/16.

A rainforest busy-bee is scheduled for Saturday 3rd Sept at 9 am.

Spring Guided Walk (in conjunction with the Festival of Country Gardens) 9th October at 10.30am.

Take a short walk around the trees of Australia - from tall eucalypts to a rainforest glade, then on to the Gimlets, Mallets and Mallees of the Western Woodlands - with ecologist Wayne O'Sullivan. Allow about 1 hour. Leaving from the Australian Collection car park. Wear sturdy shoes. \$5pp.

DID YOU KNOW THAT TREES ROOTS ARE INTELLIGENT?

From the outside trees appear static and silent, but inside it's all go. The complex interaction within plants has been likened by some scientists to a form of neurobiology. It enables them to sense and respond to their environment in sophisticated ways, even to develop communication, memory and sense of touch. The locus for integrating their information is next to the root tip. Darwin once called it the root brain! (*New Scientist* Dec. 2014.)

Farwell to Margie

On a very sad note, we say farewell to our long-term Golden Valley Tree Park supporter and valued Committee member, Margaret (Margie) Miskimmin who passed away on July 10th 2016. Margie's happy and generous character was much loved by all. She contributed great service over many years to Golden Valley Tree Park including as Committee Secretary and Tree Sponsorship Secretary.

Vale Margie. You will be greatly missed.

THE GVTP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Management Committee was held on 8th July at the Homestead. All existing members were re-elected and new members, Doreen Shorter and Wendy Kurz were endorsed. Bob Hingston was re-elected to the Chair and thanked everyone for a very productive year, including all volunteers. Bob outlined some priorities and challenges for the coming financial year and said he was looking forward to implementing the developments the Committee has planned.

SUPPORTING THE TREE PARK

If you would like to volunteer or perhaps nominate for the Management Committee, please contact us via details at our website: <http://www.goldenvalleytreepark.org.au/>

Many beautiful trees are available for sponsorship. If you are not already, you may like to become a Friend of Park. Check it all out here

<http://www.goldenvalleytreepark.org.au//Golden-Valley-Tree-Park-Sponsorship.html>