



GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK

— B A L I N G U P —

2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of the Tree Park and Volunteers,

During the past year the Committee have been very busy with new projects and general improvements to your Tree Park.

We were fortunate in receiving a \$23,000 grant from **Royalties for Regions** with the aim of helping us with infrastructure improvements to the World Collection Picnic site, such as provision of power to the Gazebo and the Cleveland Oaks, and refurbishing the Gazebo (nearly completed). We are also applying for funds (Lotterywest) to build a shelter over the gas barbeque.

This current work in the World Collection follows on our development of an entirely new picnic site in the Australian Collection. The **Dept. of Parks and Wildlife** has provided funding to build well needed toilet facilities which now working. And a grant from the **Small Farm Field Day Trust Fund**, assisted us to build a shelter nearby as well. Big thanks to both. Thanks to the skills of Mr **Terry Leseberg**, we now have improved facilities for the public to enjoy our increasingly popular landscape of Australian trees. This assists us with our 5 year Infrastructure Plan which, in due course, will also include a new walk track into the **magic Oak Grove** with "a nature play" area for children, including a small tree house.

The Dept. of Parks and Wildlife have also recently had contractors in to prune and remove some of the **insect damaged flooded gums** (*E. rudis*) in the World Collection creek lines. Around the SW this species is defoliated at least once a year (in cases twice) and we needed to keep our paths safe for the public as many tree crowns were dangerous.

Busy Bees – please keep the following dates free for our forthcoming working bees:

- Saturday 22nd July – removing old fences around the **Magic Oak Grove** to commence the Nature Play area planning. Be there at the beginning!

- Saturday 5th August – **planting in Australian collection**, various sheoak species in small grove plus landscaping in the new picnic site.
- Saturday 12th August – Small addition of new species in World Collection, including a long sought after planting of **Cricket Bat Willow**.

Spring Picnic – sadly this year we are not running the Spring Picnic. As the event has become more elaborate over the years it has put a heavy work load on our volunteer committee. This is in addition to all that is needed to accomplish the core business of the arboretum which is an interesting, healthy and well labelled tree collection. So we have had to refocus our efforts on the long term development of the tree project and improved visitor facilities. For so many of us who have lived in Balingup for many years, the Spring Picnic – first held in April 1981 – holds exquisite memories of beautiful community expression that we will never forget. We do hope other community events will emerge over time. **New ideas are most welcome.**

Tree sponsorships – this year more trees were sponsored at the Park. A tree dedication is a unique way to show your love or respect for someone, or to provide a treasured memory. There are many fine trees available as well as wooden park benches. Check out what is available at www.goldenvalleytreepark.org.au/sponsorships

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY TREE PARK

Birds of the Tree Park

Did you know? Birding WA has surveyed 56 species of birds in our Tree Park. Now our long-term volunteer Peter Hicks is designing a display of the birds. We also plan to install nest boxes for Black Cockatoos. All three SW species visit the Park.

Want to hold an event at Golden Valley? Reservations for weddings and parties are growing popular: especially now power is included! Details are on our website.

Or want to contact us? info@goldenvalleytreepark.org.au



Our Management Committee comprises of Bob Hingston (Chairman), Wendy Kurz (Sec), Ron Bullard (Treasurer until next month), Andrew Sandri (DPaW), Chrissy Sharp, Andrew Thamo (Curator World Collection), Peter Hicks, Wendy Ayers, Brian Martin, Jan Helsham and Gary Hodge. Jan and Gary are recent members and we welcome them. Wayne O'Sullivan is also curator of the Aus. Collection.