



GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK

— B A L I N G U P —

Growing the Park ~ 2012 Newsletter

AS the 2012 Community Spring Picnic day on 27th October approaches last spring's amazing dance and fire extravaganza is a hard act to follow, but live afternoon music, children's activities and a late disco, after the traditional bonfire, will again make the day special ~ with your essential support. Please join us for a free community celebration.

The Park, and the people who make it possible, have been busy! Visitor numbers ~ thanks to the highway sign sponsored by the Small Farm Field Day ~ and the volunteer effort have steadily grown. The tree collection was greatly enhanced by this year's planting of a representative collection from the beautiful South-West group of Gimlets. These eucalypts were specially propagated for us from a seed collection in the Great Western Woodlands by our new committee member Wayne O'Sullivan. With the financial support of the Bjarne K Dahl Trust and the assistance of over fifty planters, we have created a wonderful new corner in the Australian Collection which will add to our growing regional species list. Wayne is a WA tree expert of considerable experience with DEC, MOTT and the Wilderness Society and we are excited to have him more involved with project. Also expanding the committee expertise is local Brian Martin who brings a life time of silvicultural experience to benefit the Park.

Meeting the Challenge Head On

Given that three of the driest SW winters ever recorded have been in the past four years, with the fourth occurring only in 2001, adaptation of the Park to a drier climate has become our management preoccupation.

The sudden loss of a Larch and an Atlas Cedar from our rare conifers in February has intensified these concerns. Our response has been to increase watering where possible, thin out some crowded groups and weak trees, and to focus ever more on drought/heat tolerant species. For the longer term we continue to negotiate with the Water Corp for access to the Padbury Dam upstream from the Park, once this water becomes redundant as a public drinking water source under the forthcoming regional water supply system due to its brackish quality.

Some say nothing can be done about climate change. Certainly individual effort to reduce emissions is small scale but adaptation to our changing conditions can make a big difference locally. We are committed to building resilience into the Park's tree collection and to providing a model for other landscapes across the region. This coming year we intend to remove more trees from the Park where multiples of the same species are crowded together. This cutting will include parts of the stand of radiata pine in the Hidden Valley, to liberate the rare valley floor plantings, and then continue more thinning of Australian trees. The programme follows well respected landscaping traditions once trees, post-establishment, need greater space and moisture, and will reap rewards over the coming years. We apologise for any localised disruption. No sponsored trees are affected and most of our trees are growing very well and will only benefit.

2012 COMMUNITY SPRING PICNIC

SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER

STARTS 3PM

BYO PICNIC ~ ALL FREE ~

***KIDS GAMES * SPECTACULAR BONFIRE * NEW
LOCAL MUSICIANS J. BOS DISCO GROOVES TIL LATE***

SEE YOU THERE!!!

*GUIDED WALKS: WORLD COLLECTION Sunday 14th Oct 9-10am
THE OZ COLLECTION with Bob Hingston Sunday 4th Nov 9-10am \$4
per person.*

Organised by the Festival of Country Gardens More info ph 97641111

2012 GVTP Inc Committee: Dr Chrissy Sharp (Chair), Andy Sandri (Deputy Chair, DEC), Margie Miskimmin (Secretary & Sponsorships), Ron Bullard (Treasurer), Andrew Thamo (Dendrologist), Peter Hicks (Permaculturalist), Wendy Ayers (Heritage), Bob Hingston (Forester), Wayne O'Sullivan (Dendrologist), Brian Martin (Silviculturalist)

SHIRE PLANS ~ have your say.

The Shire's new draft planning scheme is out for comment until 12th November. This is a long-term legally binding document that will control Balingup's future development. Given that land to the north of the Park is being incorporated for a large residential estate, please send the Shire a submission (on Form 4 on their website) to say that Golden Valley must be marked on the plan maps as it is not even designated on the draft, and like other important sites in the Shire, made into a Special Control Area for landscape protection, so that nearby buildings do not intrude the surrounds of the Park in the future, as required by the Planning Commission. Thank You!