

Our Vision

*A place of beauty, tranquility and rejuvenation
A place of learning and transformation
A community developed and internationally-recognised
arboretum comprising World and Australian tree
collections*



GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK
BALINGUP

FOR PRESS RELEASE 19 FEBRUARY 2020 Balingup's Golden Valley Tree Park (Inc) Opens Up to New Generations of Young People

The first group of South Regional TAFE Horticulture and Conservation students descended into Balingup on 19th February 2020 to begin a new chapter in the life of the State's largest and most diverse Arboretum.

"The GVTP Management Committee is very proud to offer a unique precinct for young people that supports their learning outcomes in an inspiring setting,' Chair Gary Hodge said. 'The partnership with South Regional TAFE and Parks and Wildlife Services DBCA also brings a new education and training capability to the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.'

First term student activities include garden maintenance & future garden design around the heritage-listed GVTP Homestead, starting herbarium collections, undertaking bush bird and floral surveys in the Park's Australian Collection as well as creating marketing campaigns for eco-tourism sites.

'We welcome the opportunity to provide our students with learning experiences in the community and extending their networks with Horticulture and Conservation industry members' said South Regional TAFE A/Managing Director Sue Lapham. 'We know that the special relationship that our students will develop with the Golden Valley Tree Park will last a lifetime as they return to see the results of their work.'

The Golden Valley Tree Park in Balingup was judged by Qantas Insider magazine in 2016 as being in the top five places in Australia to see Autumn colour. It has also received glowing accolades from the West Australian newspaper travel magazine and the Geographe FOUND magazine.

'This sort of endorsement has seen visitor numbers to the Park, already substantial, expand considerably to around 50,000 people per year," said Bob Hagan Regional Manager for Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. "Visitor experience and safety are the top priorities and we are excited that the Golden Valley Tree Park Committee has been able to engage South West Regional TAFE students with hands-on and practical activities in the Park".

Future plans include involving students in the design and construction of high-tech information systems that enable visitors to use their smart phones to access detailed information on trees in the Park with potential links to local businesses that provide accommodation and hospitality services.

Recent events in Australia have highlighted the importance of developing generations of young Australians that are skilled in conservation and land management practices and capable of adapting to changing climatic conditions.

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