



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

JULY 2019

Dear Supporters of Golden Valley

This is my final newsletter and after forty years on this “labour of love”, it is time to develop a succession plan at GVTP to nurture new ideas, new expertise and new managers. As the ‘Mother of the Park’ I am looking forward to its thriving into the future, providing peace, tranquillity and rejuvenation to all who visit this very special part of the world that is tucked in behind our little town of Balingup.

The biggest help of all over those years has been from our partners at the **Parks and Wildlife Service (DBCA)**. PaWS support is unflagging. We really couldn’t do it on volunteer enthusiasm alone, without the departmental back up. On the other hand, our volunteer dedication has created a long-term asset for the State that would never have happened without our passion.

I will continue to be involved in various aspects of the project, as will Andrew, and in particular, the managing of the trees themselves. Tree health care is ever more important a focus as our climate continues to dry and the groundwater drops further each year due to less winter saturation, despite occasional summer rain events.

We have had a lot of help in the past year from **WAPRES** in the form of woody weed removal, from the **FPC** a grant to reprint our brochure, from **Wy Allen** & his ubiquitous bob-cat and **Kathy Dawson** of the WA Bio-char Network, as well as **64 community volunteers**. All this activity has occurred while seeing the retirement from the Chair and Committee of hard working **Bob Hingston**. But, fortunately, we are gaining some new talents as you shall see.

It has been an honour and a joy to have helped to create a beautiful and educational landscape of interesting trees.

Dr Chrissy Sharp, Retiring Chair

We are delighted to announce that **Professor Lyn Beazley** AO former Chief Scientist of WA and recently elected Fellow of the prestigious Australian Academy of Science is to give this year’s address in the arboretum’s main gazebo on a 4.7 billion history of the South West. This is a free community education event and all are welcome. Lyn is a wonderful presenter so mark in your diaries a 1.00pm start on **Saturday 19 October 2019** in the main gazebo

Management Committee 2019-2020: Gary Hodge (Chair); Tom Benson (Deputy Chair & Treasurer); Wendy Kurz (Secretary); Chrissy Sharp (Local Coordinator); Andrew Thamo (Curator World Collection); Wayne O’Sullivan (Curator Australian Collection); Andy Sandri (PaWS); Wendy Ayers; Jan Helsham; Byron Joel; Yulia Novikov; Jeff Pow.



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From Gary Hodge newly-elected Chair of the Golden Valley Tree Park (GVTP)

I am honoured to be elected by my fellow Management Committee members to take on the role of Chair of this magnificent arboretum, which is a jewel in the town of Balingup and a place of lasting pride for the community.

I thank Dr Chrissy Sharp for her inspiring, skilful and knowledgeable chairing of this committee for many years. The evolution of the arboretum over some 40 years has been a unique partnership between community volunteers, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (formerly PAWS), the Merry Men, tree sponsors and co-founders Dr Chrissy Sharp and Andrew Thamo who have been recognised as DBCA's joint top volunteers of the year for their service.

I am also keenly aware as Chair that we are only ever co-custodians of this beautiful landscape that has seen unbroken human existence and cultural development on this site going back some 50 000 years. This is a reminder of what makes Australia unique on a world scale and imparts a keen sense of responsibility that we have to pass on the best possible world and environment to our children and grandchildren. The GVTP is a shining symbol of a legacy of care and commitment.

The Future

The Management Committee held a recent strategic planning session to help us envisage long-term goals to benefit the arboretum. After careful consideration, here is the vision

The GVTP: A Vision Realised and Sustained

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

The Management Committee and I look forward to engaging with you to realise and sustain this vision.

Big improvements across the arboretum

Have you noticed the improvements here and there? It's been a year for tackling overdue work on tree health and landcare whilst continuing to improve general visitor amenities at the arboretum. There is an exquisite new gazebo at the main picnic site, and once-in-a-generation forestry work happening in the Australian Collection. We shall be celebrating the opening of the new gazebo in Spring with a community get together and barbecue. More details to follow.

The Barbecue Gazebo: a beautiful new addition to the arboretum

A big thank you to Terry Leseberg from the Merry Men and Jason West from DBCA for building this finely-crafted structure designed by Robert Vis from Greenbushes. Thanks also to Andrew Sandri from DBCA for his tireless support. Community members donated \$3 300 to build the gazebo and Peter Hicks, another of our fine Merry Men, also assisted with the construction.

Terry Leseberg at the new barbecue gazebo. Note the finely-crafted woodwork design and precision 'herringbone' pattern in the galvanised iron roofing the result of attention to detail.



Improved walk tracks and applied science 'biochar'

Walk track comfort has improved by nudging the ants off the tracks, YAY! And new internal sheep fences are up and a programme of mulching stressed trees with activated biochar has begun. We hope to improve soil carbon and water absorption for health.

Busy Bees One of the keys to the above productivity has been our **regular busy bees** every month. They are both fun and very helpful and the thank-you morning teas have become legendary for their splendour. (Every third Saturday – do email us if you are interested.) **TREE PLANTINGS World Collection Sat 17th August. 9 am to midday.**

Partnering and strategic planning In the pipeline we are planning to become a TAFE centre of excellence as a training site in arboriculture, Noongar ranger skills, landscape and design, conservation and land management, parks and gardens, tourism, Indigenous heritage, carpentry and joinery and even possibly hospitality and catering. We are hoping to make formal announcements in the very near future as we formalise arrangements.

And the last words...some tree and recognition snippets

- The **MAGIC OAK WOODS PROJECT** is quietly proceeding. Our Balingup artist **Roz Benson** is now at work on the project. We anticipate a launch next Autumn.
- The old growth **Flooded Gums** (*E. rudis*) have responded really well with lots of new growth after pruning the dead wood. Never give up on your trees – but look after them!
- Our collection of **oil mallees** will be redesigned. Established in 2003 by the Department, this stand was to mimic the wheat belt tree system for reducing salinity whilst producing energy and eucalyptus oil. These remarkable native trees are able to power jet planes!! See the full report on our website www.goldenvalleytreepark.org.au

Did you know that the Golden Valley Tree Park has been judged by Qantas as being in the top five destinations in Australia for seeing Autumn tree colour?

<https://www.qantas.com/travelinsider/en/experiences/nature/the-five-best-places-in-australia-to-see-autumn-colours.html>



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APPLICATION / RENEWAL TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE TREE PARK

I AM (please circle) A NEW FRIEND / RENEWING MY SUBSCRIPTION

NAME/S: _____

POSTAL: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: (H) _____ (M) _____

DATE PAID: _____ METHOD (Please circle) CHEQUE OR

DIRECT DEPOSIT (To BSB 066-504 Account No 1006-2700. Please quote code FP followed by your last name. e.g. FPJONES)

**PLEASE POST THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK INC.,
PO BOX 21 BALINGUP WA 6235 OR
IF PAYING BY DIRECT BANK DEPOSIT, YOU CAN SCAN YOUR APPLICATION FORM AND
EMAIL IT TO info@goldenvalleytreepark.org.au**

How would you prefer we contact you? _____

Any interests and/or skills you'd like to contribute or other ways you would like to be involved? _____

Would you like to be advised of volunteer busy bees? YES / NO

Thank you for your valued ongoing support of Golden Valley Tree Park