



GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK

— B A L I N G U P —

~ Winter 2009 Newsletter ~

It's time to let you know the latest news from the Park.

Our arboretum is growing! Despite the dry autumn most **trees are growing quite well** including the new Wollemi Pines. Seventeen **new trailside information panels** are now in place adding interesting tree information, and we have received our first **environmental water release** from the former Balingup dam, thanks to negotiations between the Park, the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Water Corporation. This dam is just upstream of the Park and is no longer used as a public water supply due to levels of organic residues and salinity. However the water is useful for our trees. More welcome and very recent news is that the **WA Planning Commission** has rejected any large scale town expansion close to Golden Valley. There are plenty of new plans in preparation too! We have taken delivery of a new **gas BBQ** to be installed soon, there a poetry in the Park competition happening and an interesting **planting of West Australian trees** organised for this June.

2009 Mallet Tree Planting

Our biggest planting for some years will see all ten species of West Australian mallots added to our collection of West Australian trees. "Mallet" is originally an Aboriginal term for those gum trees from the wheatbelt that have a single slender trunk fanning out at the canopy. Many of them are very ornamental and some quite rare. Also a stand of WA's beautiful Salmon Gums will be established. **Can you help?** Busy bees will be on Sunday 14th and 21st of June from 9am to noon. Tools & Morning tea will be provided. But bring gloves and sturdy shoes. Please phone Chrissy on 97641148.

Meanwhile come and enjoy a walk and check out the new trailside panels installed all over the Park. Find out more about the trees and the heritage of Golden Valley, including the oak collection, the rare West Australian trees on the ridge, Australian rainforest species, the extraordinary tale of the Ginkgo, and the history of the Golden Valley Homestead. For instance you can find out why Radiata pine trees are a threatened species in their native Californian, or how tall Australian Eucalypts can grow. The panels are illustrated with original botanical drawings by Balingup artist Candy Matthews, or with early historical photos. The work was funded by the Regional Assistance Programme. **This is part of a rolling information upgrade** Extensive work on a data base of the World Collection is close to completion. Soon there will be a complete list of all the exotic trees in the Park on display and their sponsors, along with their grid reference to locate them. Then the work will move to catalogue the Australian trees.

“Poetry in the Park” ~ 2009 Poetry Competition

Why not try your hand at writing a poem?

The subject can be anything related to the Golden Valley Tree Park, this includes botanical names of trees, common names, seasons, acorns, you name it! Let your creativity and imagination open wide.

A selection of winning poems will be read at this years Spring Picnic.

There will be an adults and children’s category.

Entry is free, post your poem to; Poetry in the Park,
Golden Valley Tree Park,
c/- Balingup Post Office WA 6253

Just include your name, age, address and a contact phone number.

Entries must be in by the end of September 2009. All entries may be used for promotional, publication or advertising material by the GVTP committee.

Golden Valley Tree Park gives Special Thanks to:

- Small Farm Field Day Trust Fund for \$7000 donation to the Park to purchase a gas BBQ for the picnic site.
- WA Planning Commission for requiring landscape protection between the Park and land earmarked for town growth.
- Water Corp for their provision of environmental water to the Tree Park from the unused storage at the old Balingup Dam
- And to Peter Henderson Regional Manager of DEC, for negotiating the water usage for Golden Valley.

Dates to Remember

Sunday 14th and 21st June: Preparation and Tree Planting Busy-Bees from 9am to noon. Bring gloves and sturdy shoes. Ph 97641148 for more info. Morning tea provided.

Saturday 31st October: Community Spring Picnic

Tree sponsorship gift vouchers are now available.

Why not purchase a tree dedication for someone special? ph Wendy 97643252
Is there anyone who would like to volunteer regularly to help at the Park? We are starting a new group. Ph Chrissy 97641148 or Wendy 97643525 ***And remember actual donations to the Park are now tax deductible.*** ***Thank you!***

GVTP Inc Committee is Dr Chrissy Sharp (Chair), Dave Lathwell of DEC (Deputy Chair), Margie Miskimmin (Secretary), Mary Robinson (Treasurer), Wendy Ayers (Tree Sponsorship Sec), Andrew Thamo (Dendrologist), Peter Hicks (Permaculturalist), Bob Hingston of Trees SW (Forester), Nuala Scott (Community liason), (in addition Peta Townsing is Promotions adviser and Pam Williamson our webmaster.)
Website www.goldenvalleytreepark.org.au