

# Golden Valley Tree Park Newsletter

*Keeping Up with the Pace in the Year of the Horse*



2014 promises to be an energetic year at the arboretum.

New goals, new trees, new programmes.

Due to community fund-raising a new tree maintenance works programme has begun led by Brian Martin and Peter Hicks. Thanks to Cassandra Menard, the BPA and our tree sponsors.

The Dept. of Parks and Wildlife is making real progress to provide secure land tenure so that the Tree Park will become a gazetted A class reserve.

The pines in the park's Hidden Valley will be thinned in March organised by the Forest Products Commission. The remaining trees can then grow onto an older age and create space for the rare trees already planted in the gully.

A new Management Plan is progressing well. A draft PLAN will go out for community consultation in July at a Forum to be organised by the Balingup Progress Association. Thank you Wendy Trow for joining the team.

In winter we shall be planting rare trees: Myrtles in the Oz "rainforest" thanks to Basil Schur, more tall eucalypts, autumn colour in the World Collection and even a Dragon Blood Tree gifted by Jenny and Brian De Garis.

Designs are being prepared for a large wooden tree house to be built by the Park's Merry Men and to put power and water onto the Picnic area.

Overnight camping will be trialled in the small paddock closest to town in conjunction with this year's Medieval Carnivale.

Balingup Lions will be helping out for a day in May when we shall complete a makeover of the Mallee grove where Graham Banks has just done a comprehensive eradication of weed acacias. Thank you Iain Massey and the Lions.

## Omelettes and Eggs

They have a saying in France that you can't eat an omelette without breaking eggs. We are reminded of this because in resolutely tackling long overdue tree thinning and woody weed eradication over the past seven months, we have certainly been breaking a few eggs at the Tree Park. Still with debris needing clearing in these sections, we are pleased we are now dealing with the clean up because the egg-breaking is done!

Although we add more trees each year, progressively more of our task is that of maintaining the collection we have established. Sometimes this is difficult or dangerous work unsuited to untrained volunteers. The climate variability is bringing more wind damage and the drying trend is affecting the crown size of some trees. This is not disastrous, it is just work. And 2014 is seeing some of this much needed tree maintenance being tackled.



### **Almost every child dreams of living in a tree**

It was six year old Karri who said, "What you need is a tree house at the Park." And she was right. So we plan to build one next summer. A lovely big wooden tree house with turrets, a tree bridge and slide, one for dreams.

It goes hand in hand with new development plans taking shape for our vision of Golden Valley slowly becoming a hub for tourism in the Blackwood Valley. All this is coming about through the ongoing commitment of the Department of Parks and Wildlife, through the support of local groups and the growing collaboration of the Shire.

But most of all it is your community support that makes this possible. Thank you so much for slipping an occasional donation in the box. Yes our Treasurer empties them every month. Thank you to our new bench sponsors. And do think of giving a tree sponsorship as a lasting gift for someone.

Remember the Tree Park runs on Love!

## **SPRING PICNIC on 4th Oct 2014 will be our biggest yet.**

~Plans for a live band, circus and much more ~

Thanks to the sponsorship of the S W Development Commission and the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

From GVTP Committee: Chrissy Sharp (Chair), Andy Sandri (DPaW), Andrew Thamo (Dendrology), Peter Hicks (Merry Men), Ron Bullard (Treasurer), Margie Miskimmin (Secretary & Sponsorships), Bob Hingston (Forester), Wendy Ayers (Heritage), Brian Martin (Silviculture), Wayne O'Sullivan (Ecology)