



## GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK

— B A L I N G U P —

[www.goldenvalleytreepark.org.au](http://www.goldenvalleytreepark.org.au)

Dear Balingup residents and the Friends of Golden Valley

### 2010 Park News

We wanted to fill you in on activities coming up and tell you our recent news. The past year has been busy as usual with significant volunteer input. In fact we have had some thirty five helpers putting in nearly 2000 volunteer hours to manage the arboretum. **Massive thanks to you all.** And to all our tree sponsors who support the project financially too, thank you. The Tree Park truly runs on love, the smell of an oily rag and a special donation from the Small Farm Field Day Trust which has enabled us to install a large Gas BBQ!

The BIG NEWS for 2010 is that we are celebrating the Park's **30<sup>th</sup>** birthday!! So get out the diary and mark in **Saturday 23 rd October** to celebrate the Park's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please join us and bring your friends to the

#### **SPRING BBQ**

**great live music, exciting fire sculptures, spectacular bonfire, kids activities and the Park's new gas BBQ will be hot**

**Starts 5pm , entry to event by gold coin donation.**

*Deepen your knowledge of the Tree Park; the more you know the more it's a fascinating place*

**Spring Guided Walks on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Oct and 7<sup>th</sup> Nov both at 9am in conjunction with the Festival of Country Gardens \$4 pp. Starts World Collection car park**

#### **What about the trees?**

A lively busy-bee in August saw the planting of a range of exquisite rare trees that we imported from Victoria. These included a group of beautiful Mediterranean Strawberry trees, famous for their ornamental cinnamon red bark, and an interesting range of rare conifers ~ the Himalayan Spruce, the blue Colorado Fir, the Silver Fir, and some Sacred Pine of Mexico. We nestled the Firs and Spruces deep in the Hidden Valley where restricted sun, cool soil and no hot winds offer them a rare habitat in WA.

These will supplement the existing plantings of conifers which grow around the Sequoia Short Walk, and the main car park. There you can enjoy the company of

some of the world's most prized conifers such as the Californian Redwood and Giant Sequoia, respectively the tallest and the largest trees on the planet in their native home. Then there's the great timber species of the Douglas Fir and the Western Red Cedar. Find all three of the planet's true Cedars, from the Lebanon, the Atlas Mts and the Deodar from the Himalayas and the amazing deciduous conifers Swamp Cypress, Dawn Redwood and Larch. Finally there are gorgeous ornamentals like the stunning Kashmir Cypress, so rare in the wild it has no natural stands left in Kashmir and Tibet. (Thanks to our friends at the Mullalyup Forest Farm for this beauty.)

Have you had a chance to visit our new Mallet stand? In June 2009 over forty helpers put in twelve WA species which are growing strongly into a complete collection of these wheat-belt trees that grow with beautiful slender pretty trunks. Did you know the Park has a section of rare WA trees right up on the hill? Take the Hill Cairn Walk to find them, and enjoy the fantastic views across the Balingup hills.

**The plantings at Golden Valley, along with the regeneration at our 'sister project' at the Racecourse Reserve, will help to sequester local greenhouse gas emissions as coordinated by the Balingup Carbon Neutral Group.**

## Working with Others

**NEEDAC, the Nyungar work scheme** is going to be helping over spring with control of the invasive Sydney Wattle *Acacia longifolia*. Thanks Bunbury boys. **Golden Valley is presently negotiating with the Water Corporation** to enter into a formal arrangement for use of their Padbury Dam water supply ~ it has become too salty for human drinking, but can assist tree growth. We hope to use trickle irrigation of this resource to improve the growth at the Rainforest Corner in the Oz Collection. As well the release down creek into the Duck Dam and main picnic site has been a great boost to all the trees in the Park's riparian zone, such as the conifers described above, and given Park walkers a thrill of a bubbling brook for a few days in late summer!

**We are also working with the Shire** to have input into their forthcoming Local Planning Strategy. Expected at the end of this year, the document will be a major statutory document fixing the areas for development around Balingup town and the Park. We hope to see their support for a Landscape Protection Zone around the Park borders and on the hill tops overlooking the Park, as recommended by the Planning Commission last year, so that there is a rural buffer overlooking the arboretum.

Looking for a tree? A complete map and data base of trees and sponsors in the World Collection is going up shortly at the World Collection Info shelter. We now begin mapping the Oz tree collection. For more info email [info@goldenvalleytreepark.org.au](mailto:info@goldenvalleytreepark.org.au)

*Your current Tree Park committee; Dr Chrissy Sharp (Chair), Andrew Sandri (from DEC Deputy Chair), Ron Bullard (Treasurer), Margie Miskimmin (Secretary and Tree Sponsorships), Andrew Thamo (Dendrology), Pete Hicks (permaculturalist), Bob Hingston (from FPC Forester), Wendy Ayers (Heritage), Peta Townsing (Festival of Country Gardens)*