



**Youth Tree** is a creative collaboration to grow and strengthen relationships between young people, and non-profit organisations that involve and empower young people. It is aimed at propelling people into volunteering of just about any kind through their participation in two incredible days:

**Day 1 – Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am-6pm, Moores Building, Fremantle**

On Day 1, representatives from a broad range of non-profit organisations and a large cohort of 80 or more young people interested in volunteering will gather to share their inspiration and ideas. Each organisation representative will give a short spiel on what they do and how young people can get involved and will spend the rest of the day interacting with the participants in an informal, personal way. So how do these interactions happen? How on earth do we expect 100 strangers to drop their inhibitions and start talking freely? The answer is: an *ENORMOUS TREE SCULPTURE*! A massive tree sculpture is now being built out of re-used industry waste specifically for this event. On Day 1 it will be sitting in the middle of the space but looking a bit naked because it won't yet have bark. So the participants will use "junk" to collaboratively create artistic pieces of bark to clothe the tree. This interactive, creative, fun activity will put people out of their comfort zone, spurring them to work together. This in turn will make a positive, open environment in which participants can interact, discuss volunteering opportunities, and even sign up to volunteer with an organisation then and there. The creative explosion will be sustained by numerous breaks including **lunch** (provided) and fascinating speeches by guest speakers on sustainability, community development and other topics. There will be a formal discussion at the end of Day 1 to provide feedback and to share ideas on further unifying the volunteering community in WA. Day 1 works on the principle that collaborating to build something together makes people feel good, makes people feel a part of something, and makes people more willing to give their time and energy to good causes. Day 1 is a means of bringing volunteering to young people in the most personal, real, fun and inspiring way and also gives non-profit organisations the opportunity to recruit volunteers, network with each other, share resources, contacts and ideas.

**Day 2 – Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 9am til late, Murray Street Mall, Perth**

Day 2 will promote volunteering by directly engaging the public in a creative and personal way. On Day 2, the newly fabricated tree sculpture will be placed in the middle of Murray street Mall, where passers by - intrigued by the tree's hugeness and bizarreness – will demand to know what is going on. Participants from Day 1 will explain to them the basic idea of **Youth Tree** and again art will act as a platform for getting people to interact. This time however it will be leaves. Members of the public will be asked thought-provoking questions and encouraged to answer them by drawing, painting or writing their response on a "leaf" of re-used material. By the end of Day 2 there will be over 1000 leaves, representing over 1000 thoughts hanging on the tree. Day 2 will also be a great way for organisations from Day 1 to promote themselves to a broader audience.



Impression of finished tree sculpture

These two days represent only the beginning of the **Youth Tree** initiative that will hopefully snowball into an ongoing process that builds a closer, friendlier more effective network of volunteers in WA. **Youth Tree** is a platform for getting young people into action by giving them the contacts, confidence, knowledge and inspiration to act on any issue they feel strongly about. If you want to know more about **Youth Tree**, want share an idea, or want to get involved, contact Tim on **0401 405 503** or [shlagel@hotmail.com](mailto:shlagel@hotmail.com)

**Participating NGOs:**



**Supported by:**

