



## COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

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# Media statement

## Master Tree Growers Program starts in Jarrahdale

Small landowners from across the South West are taking part in a five week Master Tree Growers Program which started last weekend (24-25 May).

Held in two day blocks, Forest Products Commission (FPC) communications coordinator started the training with visits to two Keysbrook properties and industries such as timber treatment plant, Inglewood Products timber sawmill, a tree farm nursery at Oakford, Wescorp and Brooker Furniture.

The course also covers topics such as assessing your soil, learning about different species including sandalwood, how to measure the amount of timber you have and when and how to thin and prune. Developed by the University of Melbourne, the program has been running since 1996. Senior Lecturer Rowan Reid and Australian coordinator of the program, flew over from Melbourne to meet the participants.

Taking the group in June will be farm forestry development officer Bob Hingston and Euan Scott and from AVONGRO, Monica Durcan.

Information sharing and networking is a key part of Master Tree Growers and peer mentors from the Australian Sandalwood Network will be in attendance on the last day.

At the end of the course the twenty one participants will be entitled to call themselves a Master Tree Grower.

Pic caption: Front - Daniel May (property in Tammin), Judi Pitcher, Euan Scott  
Middle - Bob Hingston, Don Abbey (property Brookton), Rowan Reid, Ken and Chris Johnson (property Cowramup), Pamela Anson (property Northam), Jo and Peter Randell (property Chittering), Wayne Thompson (property Brookton), Audrey Bell (property Bridgetown), Linley Thompson (property Beverley), Susan Hartley.  
Back - Antony Crum, Dwayne Durcan, William Hartley (property Boddington), Tom Long, Sharon Suiter (property Bridgetown), Kevin Toovey, Chris Drazic, Greg Knibbs.

For more information contact:

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