



Alan Briggs and **Colin Arthur** from West Perth's **treemission project** meeting with District Governor **Lindsay Dry** on Monday 22 January 2018. DG Lindsay is a very strong supporter of the Rotary International tree programme, as is the current Rotary President, Australian Ian Riseley. The proposal is to use the existing structure of treemission, which includes tax deductible status and a great brand name, to facilitate this project.

Lindsay described the Rotary tree project in his latest newsletter (January 2018)

“This programme was announced at the 2017 International Assembly in San Diego wherein Rotary International President Elect Australian Ian Riseley asked every Rotarian throughout the world to plant a tree.

At the time, I thought “Whaaaaat?”but as time went on I came to the view it was a hugely beneficial idea for the environment and Rotary and which I have encouraged clubs to embrace.

At the 2017 changeover trees and shrubs were handed out to attendees and I announced that RC Cambridge President Jeremy Wood would be the “Tree Whisperer”. This involved tallying the number trees planted by clubs.

I believe the list is not exhaustive but over 13000 trees have been planted.

I recently wrote to Ian Riseley and provided information on two projects –one of the Rotary Club of West Perth (Treemission) and the other of the Rotary Club of Scarborough(Churchlands Senior High School).

President Ian was delighted and “loved” the term Tree Whisperer.

It is my hope that DGE Charles and DGN Graham and their successors will continue to encourage clubs and Rotarians to plant trees in partnership with their communities – it could well be Ian Riseley’s greatest legacy.”

The treemission project started as a collaboration between Rotary and the National Trust of Australia (WA) and Carbon Neutral in 2008. The concept is to encourage people to make a commitment to address climate change. treemission has evolved to encourage Rotarians and the community to learn about what is happening in the environment, understand what steps can and need to be taken to address environmental issues and to set out tree planting projects that Rotarians and the community can undertake. The treemission project is on a mission for trees!

Through treemission, emissions accrued in everyday activities can be turned into trees and shrubs. This will not only help lower carbon levels in our atmosphere but also conserve endangered plants, animals and rehabilitate degraded land. The **treemission** tax deductible conservation appeal with the National Trust provides an ideal opportunity for Rotarians, their businesses and their communities to capture carbon through contributions to the appeal.