

## Walpole

### Tale of Two Trees



A unique environmental education program was started to showcase the local environment and the natural adaptations made over time to the changing climate. World experts came to Nornalup to talk about two of the area's most iconic trees.

Dr Alison Lullfitz (UWA) interviewed Isaac Webb, a Traditional Owner, about the cultural significance of the red flowering gum and the red tingle tree for Noongar people.

Environmental historian Andrea Gaynor took participants on a journey through the state archives, tracking down historical accounts of the red tingle, through old maps, Forestry Department reports and explorers' journals. Ecologist Melissa Howe's survey of the conditions of the red flowering gum outlined its response to both drought and fire. Professor Stephen Hopper talked about the pollinators

who have ensured the survival of the red flowering gum. Katie Syme, a fungi expert, talked about fungi in the area and the relationships they have with red tingles and red flowering gums.



PhD candidate Nate Anderson discussed how red tingles hold their water and presented details on how they cope with our drying climate. Janine Liddelow (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) updated information on the Western Shield program in the areas and the Significant Tree Register, encouraging everyone to recognise trees of

interest. In addition, workshops trained locals on how to deliver eco-tourism activities.