

This month of July 2015, the beautiful Golden Wattle tree in the Brahma Kumaris centre garden on the Gold Coast, Australia started to flower. Each day more and more flowers would appear. It was getting more and more stunning. As we didn't know the species of the Wattle so I sent a note to an advisory service which happened to be the Botanic Gardens in Brisbane. The information that they sent back was the name of the Wattle: which is Acacia Macradenia – or common name Zig Zag wattle. It was described as a small tree with a beautiful scent.

Golden Wattle is Australia's National floral Emblem.

Throughout the Gold Coast we have not seen a tree like it, and have a few people on the lookout for more of them. It's absolutely stunning tree and we are amazed there are not more around.

This month there are celebrations for National Tree Day which has been organised by Planet Ark for the last 20 years. We sent National Tree Day organisers a photo of this beautiful tree. To celebrate National Tree Day we invited people who came to the centre to have their photo taken in front of the tree. Many were happy to do so and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BrahmaKumarisGC?>) is looking so colourful with the photos.

We have decided to have an activity day to honour National Tree Day which will be some light garden maintenance followed by Morning tea – chai and toli on August 1. We have invited friends and contacts to come along and enjoy the morning with us.

The history of this beautiful tree is: It was planted by one of our friends in the front garden. There was nothing much else in the front garden as nothing would grow – there is poor soil and there used to be a big tree that had been cut down and taken out before we moved in. Slowly this little tree started to grow. It has been in the garden for seven years. About four years ago we had bad weather as we were hit by the ex-cyclone Oswald that battered the northern Queensland coast. The small tree was getting blown continuously in one direction for four days in strong winds and rain until it eventually fell over almost onto the footpath. Myself and a friend pulled the tree up and staked it back into the garden in the pouring rain and wind, to get it off the footpath. We thought it may have damaged roots and that we would have to chop it down eventually, so we waited for the right time to do that. A year later it

was growing strong, so we let it keep growing. The last two years we have been rewarded with these amazing displays of flowers. The tree gives a lot of happiness!

Planet Ark have put out a fantastic report “Needing Trees:The Nature of Happiness” – sponsored by Toyota Australia, (on <http://treeday.planetark.org>). There are more things on this website and I have listed myself as a Co-ordinator and we are doing an Urban renewal in the garden – as a private activity on August 1.

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