

HEART & LUNG  
TRANSPLANT  
FOUNDATION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
*Every breath and every heartbeat*



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**MEDIA RELEASE**

3 September 2007

More than 500 organ transplant recipients and donor families are expected to attend the 2007 Tree Planting Ceremony at Lake Monger Reserve on Sunday 7 October from 3pm to 4.30pm.

The annual function is hosted by the Heart & Lung Transplant Foundation Western Australia Inc and proudly supported by DonateWest and the Town of Cambridge.

The intention of the ceremony is to acknowledge and commemorate the contribution of cadaveric organ and tissue donors and their families and highlight the importance of organ donation.

The planting of a tree, a symbolic gesture, is a sign of new life and renewal and over time provides a living tribute to those who have given the gift of life to others.

Foundation founder Yvonne Bali knows all too well the importance of organ donation after receiving a lifesaving double lung transplant in 1999.

“The Tree Planting Ceremony is very important to donor families and recipients because they are able to share their experiences with each other, acknowledge and honour the loss of a loved one and openly express their feelings about a very personal and moving event in their lives,” says Yvonne.

“The presence and immeasurable thanks of recipients at each year’s ceremony is living proof of the benevolence of donors in their decision to donate and the courage of their families to bring their wishes to fruition.”

Death is not something openly spoken about and when it happens unexpectedly there is much emotion and turmoil, shares Yvonne.

“But despite the initial discomfort in talking about death it is vitally important for people to sit down and talk to their family members about organ donation. This conversation could potentially save numerous lives and benefit many others.”

The Foundation was established by Yvonne in 2004 after years of campaigning to ensure heart and lung transplant patients would have access to world class organ transplant facilities in their own state. Today the foundation assists and supports transplant patients all over the state.

If you would like to attend the free tree planting ceremony please contact Kim Ball on 0433 191 333 or via [kb@gulibiru.com](mailto:kb@gulibiru.com)

For information about organ and tissue donation visit [www.donatewest.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.donatewest.health.wa.gov.au) , call 9222 0222 or email [donatewest@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:donatewest@health.wa.gov.au)

RELEASE ENDS

*For media enquiries, interviews and photo opportunities contact Heart & Lung Transplant Foundation WA Communications Coordinator Kim Ball on 0433 191 333.*