

DRAYTON RESERVE WATERING SPECIFICATION 2016

1. Seedlings will need watering over their first summer/dry periods and may also need watering over their second summer, especially if they are slow growing species.
2. The time to water will be when evapotranspiration exceeds rainfall for a couple of weeks.
3. We will have water bins and 2 & 3L milk bottles in convenient locations when watering should start (we will also have bottles at water-holes in the stream).
4. We encourage walkers to “adopt a tree” (or rather 6 or more!), fill water bottles from a water station, tie their own coloured cotton ribbons to their adopted plant stake (so they can easily find them again and so we know which ones are being watered). After watering their plants, they can leave their bottles at the next convenient water station.
5. Watering should be no more than weekly, but should soak down as far as possible to encourage seedling roots to grow deeper (if dampness is shallow, roots will stay shallow and seedlings will be even more dependent on regular watering). The native species have adapted to our rainfall patterns over thousands of years, so only need our watering to get them started. In a natural situation, seedlings would probably die over most summers before striking in a wet summer. We don't want to waste seedlings or wait that long!
6. Ideally, carefully lift the stake, pour the water down the hole and replace the stake. About 500ml, once a week should be adequate if there has been no rain.