



## **One Tree Art Prize**

**Artist:** Rachael Priestly

**Title:** The Leaning Tree

**GPS:** -28.9253389, 114.7229527

As a child, summer holidays meant Mum and Dad throwing a mattress in the back of our old station wagon and making the long trip from our farm in Moora to Geraldton to visit family.

My brother and I would lie in the back, sweltering in what Dad liked to call the car's "fresh air conditioning." Those tiny triangle windows really didn't offer much relief for the poor kids in the back seat. The trip always seemed endless.

But then came the Greenough Leaning Trees.

To a hot, tired, slightly grumpy child, the sight of those strange wind-blown trees brought instant relief. I knew we were nearly there. Even then, with a vivid



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imagination, I was convinced those trees belonged to another world. If fairies existed, I was certain they lived hidden amongst those twisted branches.

By the time we passed through Greenough, the late afternoon light would be stretching long shadows across the ground, and the heat of the day would begin to soften. The windows would finally be wound all the way down and the salty sea breeze would drift into the car, carrying the promise of beach days, family laughter, and holidays ahead.

This painting is not just about a tree. It is about a childhood memory and the way certain landmarks become woven into family stories for years to come.