



One Tree Art Prize

Artist: Jennifer Wrightson

Title: The Sentinel

GPS: -33.667, 16.4115

My tree I have called 'The Sentinel' as, it is always watching and waiting for water. It is a variety of the 'Paper Bark' that is called *Melaleuca raphrophylla* and is part of the Myrtle family.

First discovered in the Swan River in 1840 (Wikipedia, 2026). However, it is very common in the Southwest as, this tree is usually found in or near water in swampy areas. The bark of this tree is grey in colour and it is unique as, it feels spongy due to conserving water. Nevertheless, the bark is shed in Autumn.

Needle like leaves adorn it's branches. Additionally, it is graced with white flowers at various times, mainly from May to January.



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My first picture was taken last September in Spring near Abbey my tree was glorious. Majestically stood next to the water that had hydrated the tree throughout winter. A small stream had formed that lead to a drain. A family of ducks were bathing in the water. Yellow flowers and trees provided a serene background for the sentinel.

At the end of summer in April my tree photograph revealed a different view of our hero. Water had gone from the stream, reeds were parched. Yet, our tree stood tall, it's bark was in tatters as it struggled to survive. Miraculously the tree when touched was still spongy, it's roots had worked well. Our 'Sentinel' now was waiting to bathe and refresh once again in Autumn rain.