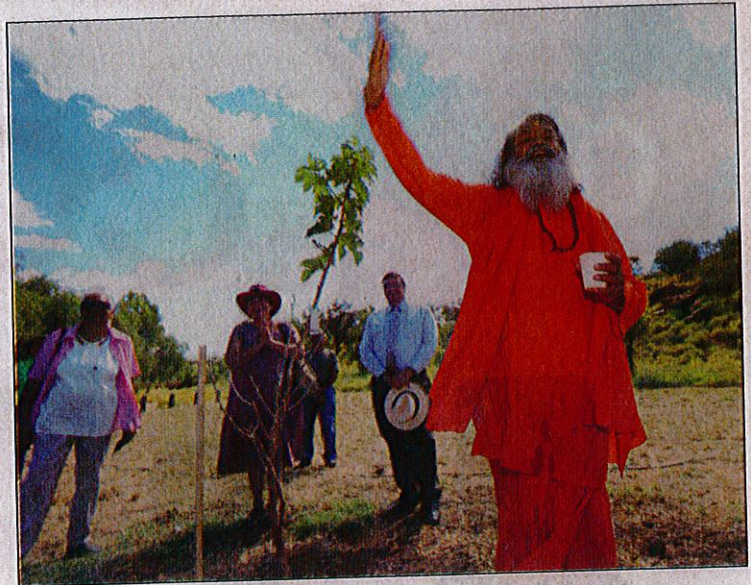


Sri Swami Madhavananda from the World Peace Council blesses the world peace tree as Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan (second from right) and traditional owner Barb Satour (far left) look on

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# Peace leader's blessing

**Erin Jones**

A BLACK mulberry tree planted in the Alice Springs community garden will bring peace to everyone who touches it, says a leader of the World Peace Council.

Mahamandaleshwar Paramahans Swami Maheshwarananda from the Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council is on his annual Peace Tour and visited Alice Springs on Wednesday.

The Swami met Mayor Damien Ryan to plant a peace tree in the community garden at Francis Smith Park — one of many peace trees planted around Australia on his tour.

For the last 40 years Mr Maheshwarananda has travelled around the world for 11 months of every year on a Peace Tour, spreading the words of Sri

Madhavananda and Mahatma Gandhi.

On this tour he has honoured the ancient culture and living wisdom of the Aboriginal people.

He said: "My biggest dream was to come and adore this holy land. I took my journey here on a peace tour.

"I am feeling a divine blessing I could be part of this project.

"I think Alice Springs needs very much now the peace and harmony.

"I have heard there are a lot of alcohol and community problems and I hope this will one day solve everything."

The peace activist also met traditional owner Barb Satour and acknowledged her importance and significance to the "holy land".

The next stop for Mr Maheshwarananda is Perth.