

LIFE THROUGH THE LENS



THE GNARLEY TREE.

Look at this tree! (There are many like it around town)

There it stands by the side of the road; mostly ignored; walked around; seldom seen and seldom appreciated unless you stop and look closely.

See where it has lost a limb. Probably because someone; who never looked closely at it's character; said "It gets in the way. Cut it off!"

See where it weeps? Struck by something, someone who hardly saw it standing there, and if they did, thought "It's just taking up space"

See the old "scruffy" bark; from time to time it falls off and is, "Just more mess to clean up. Be good when it is gone!"

Yet for many too small and supposedly of no value, who cannot always fend for themselves it is a priceless haven.

For all its "being ignored" it still pushed up water and goodness to the leaves which will give shade when needed, nourish the flowers in season; supply sweet nectar to the bees; and food for the parrots that bounce around in it's crown.

Are there people around our town whom we see, yet don't see? We look, make a judgement; move on? Never stopping to look too closely; or get to know? Are we the poorer for this "indifference"?

Jesus saw a man up a tree once. No one liked that little man; yet Jesus went home and had lunch with him. Changed Zacchaeus' life. Changed how people saw him. Check the story in God's Word: Luke chapter nineteen, verses one to nine.

Take time to look beneath the bark.

Cheers,

Kevin Schrapel.