EUCALYPTS IN AUCKLAND II

R.O. Gardner

E. bridgesiana — apple box

A very fine example of this species, and probably the only one in Auckland, stands in the carpark behind the A.S.B. Bank, Newmarket. Approximately 15 m tall and 110 cm dbh it would appear to be in its early maturity. I know nothing of its history, and it is not protected under the Borough's District Scheme.

The bark of E. bridgesiana is "box" type, while the "apple" part of the common name refers to a general likeness to members of the related genus Angophora, the first-observed species of which was seen as resembling the ordinary apple. Apple box is planted for shade in Australian parks.

E. camaldulensis — red river gum

In Australia this species has the widest distribution of any eucalypt, and it is commonly planted elsewhere. A Californian garden book (Williamson et al. 1983), for example, notes: "Takes more heat and cold than E. globulus. Good in alkaline soil." However the only tree I know of in Auckland is an ageing one on the shore south of the end of Rosebank Rd, on the old Pollen estate.

E. cladocalyx — sugar gum

Scott (1979 p. 49) pictured what was one of the most historic trees in West Auckland, noting: "An ancient gum standing at the end of Rata St is the only relic of this extensive company farm. Twisted and gnarled but still producing a vigorous canopy of leaves, it is the last of a long row of gums planted by [Thomas] Henderson in 1858".

Scott identified this tree as E. cladocalyx -- I have not located a voucher specimen. At any rate the tree no longer exists, having been felled in 1984 when Alderman Drive was formed.

E. ficifolia; E. calophylla — red-flowering gum; marri

These two species, and reputed hybrids between them, are widely-planted ornamentals, recognisable by their thick ovate leaves, dense conflorescences of red, orange, pink or cream flowers and fruit like large dice-cups.

E. ficifolia in Australia is described as a small (to 10 m) tree with crimson flowers and yellow-brown seeds with a terminal wing; E. calophylla may reach 60 m and has conspicuous oil glands in the leaves, cream (rarely pink) flowers, and black wingless seeds (Chippendale 1988). The bark of the former is red-brown flaky, campared to the latter's paler tessellated bark.

Auckland's best E. calophylla is perhaps the one at 62 Mountain Rd, Mt Eden; it is c. 20 m tall 75 cm dbh.

E. gomphocephala — tuart

A dozen or so trees line Great North Rd above the Oakley Creek paddocks, Waterview. They are healthy well-shaped specimens and do not appear likely to become excessively large.

This species has crusty-fibrous bark that tends to detach in rectangular flakes (i.e. "box-type" bark) and large mushroom-shaped buds on broad strap-like peduncles.

The foetid odour of tuart leaves is very distinctive. (Other characteristic eucalypt odours include the rose geranium scent of E. macarthurii and the spicy cumin-like smell of E. tereticornis).

E. grandis — flooded gum

This species has naturalized in Shepherds Park, Beachhaven, notably on debris heaps after clearance of an orchard here. The tree is very like Sydney blue gum but its capsule valves are broader and do not curve out, and its seedlings are not lignotuberous.

E. lehmanii — bushy yate

There is an E. lehmanii on the street verge in Watson Ave, St Lukes and another in the corner section here on Sandringham Rd. From a distance, they appear rather ordinary small round-headed trees something like phyllodinous acacias, but with flaking bark. They are striking though, from underneath, the older wood bearing fist-sized clusters of long-horned buds, large green flowers and chunky near-compound fruit.

E. longifolia — woollybutt

The tree standing at the junction of Liverpool St and Great South Rd, Papakura, is probably the best in the country, being 30 m tall 120 cm dbh. According to Burstall and Sale (1984 p. 244) it was planted about 1859.

E. macarthurii — Camden woollybutt

On the clay bank of the railway cutting behind Southmall, Manurewa with the parent tree growing immediately above in the old railway reserve here, there is one bushy sapling of this species among grasses low gorse and Pomaderris phylicifolia. And at Waikumete Cemetery I have seen a single self-sown young plant, tucked in at the base of a E. robusta.

E. muellerana — yellow stringybark

Auckland's best specimen is probably the one at 45 Benson Rd, Remuera, on the old Cheeseman property. It is approximately 20 m tall 150 cm dbh.

E. nicholii — Nichol's willow-leaved peppermint

Very often planted now in parks and office landscapings, this species is appreciated for its rapid growth and billowing blue-green foliage. It soon becomes too large for suburban sections, but does make good firewood.

E. paniculata — grey ironbark

Except for one tree near the foot of Seaview Rd, Remuera, the only Auckland E. paniculata I know of are at the Arthur S. Richards Memorial Reserve, Mt Roskill. Several of these have recently died; the largest remaining (at the entrance from Parau St) is 20 m tall 120 cm dbh and

has a healthy canopy. The paleness of the bark helps distinguish this species from other ironbarks such as E. sideroxylon.

I suppose that all the trees here, mostly oaks but including several E. robusta and E. fastigata, were planted during the time this land was part of Wesley College, under the direction of eucalypt enthusiast Rev. J.H. Simmonds.

E. pauciflora — snow gum; ghost gum (California)

There are several E. pauciflora in the old railway reserves at Manurewa and Kumeu. They are not well-grown specimens (cf. the trees in Spa Road Taupo, and in the motor camp at Rotorua) but they are quite ornamental in their white twisted trunks and "heavy-duty" leaves.

E. piperita — Sydney peppermint

The tree of this species at the front of 179 Richmond Rd was previously misidentified by me (Gardner 1987) as E. obliqua. I should have been alerted by the absence of coppice growth (cf. the E. obliqua at Pt Erin Park) -- this fine old tree is perfectly healthy-topped. It is protected in the Auckland City Council's Proposed District Scheme for reason of visual amenity.

Despite its suitablity to Auckland's climate this species has not been widely planted. The only other trees I know of are at the old railway reserve in Manuwera, where there are a few juveniles on the railway cutting. Webb et al. (1988) note that this species has been has been "collected wild in Auckland", referring presumably to the old record of Urquhart for the Karaka district.

E. saligna — Sydney blue gum

This species is often used in ornamental plantations because of the attractiveness of its straight clear trunk and smoooth grey-blue and yellow bark.

It has naturalized on the Whangaparoa Peninsula (Scott Rd above the Weiti River) and at Silverdale (Weston 1957).

The eight large trees close to Mt Albert Rd in the reserve at Three Kings seem to be hybrids of E. saligna with E. botryoides; most have flaky-fibrous bark extending well up the trunk and capsules untypical of either species.

E. sideroxylon; E. leucoxylon — red ironbark; yellow gum

These two medium-size trees, particularly their pink-flowered forms, are often planted in gardens and on road verges. Very much alike in flower and fruit, they are distinguished by their bark, which is hard, dark and resin-impregnated in the former and smooth grey-yellow above a rough basal "stocking" in the latter.

Auckland Domain

The trees on the ridge at the south-east side of the Domain above George St were perhaps planted in the 1920s. The northern part of this stand is mostly E. ovata, E. obliqua, E. saligna and E. botryoides; to the south tallow-wood (E. microcorys) predominates, a fine specimen (15 m tall 125 cm dbh) at the southern end appropriate to the Abel's factory opposite.

The bark of tallow-wood is unlike that of any other eucalypt, spongy

cells and papery tissue among the fibres giving it a wafer-like character. In Australia the bark surface is said to be marked with pores that resemble miniature volcanoes but it seems that the insect responsible is not present in New Zealand.

Also present in this stand are E. cladocalyx, E. goniocalyx, E. macarthurii, E. calophylla, E. ficifolia, E. eugenioides and turpentine tree (Syncarpia glomulifera).

A splendid blackbutt (E. pilularis, 20+ m tall 130 cm dbh) shelters the nursery offices by Domain Drive. (Other notable E. pilularis occur in Darwin Lane, Orakei, and in the reserve above Shore Rd, Hobson Bay).

Cornwall Park

Single specimens here are the E. ovata in the paddock toward Greenlane Hospital, an E. obliqua just west of the park entrance from Greenlane Rd, and an E. macarthurii in the paddock east of this entrance.

There is a scrappy E. agglomerata by the fence below the main carpark, and nearby a grotesque white ash, E. fraxinoides, twisted from the base and heavily-branched towards the sun. At high altitude in Australia trees of the latter species characteristically assume this leaning posture (Boland et al. 1985).

The well-grown trees that make up the shelter-belts of the far eastern paddocks are coast grey box (E. bosistoana).

A list of the forty or so species in the plantation between Twin Oak Drive and the Kiosk has been made by Mike Wilcox and Chris Eckroyd of F.R.I. and is available from those authors.

Grey Lynn Park

There are specimens of E. robusta and E. tereticornis by the caretaker's house, and E. viminalis centrally in the playing-fields and also in the south-east where young plants are common on the grassy slope below the parents. E. botryoides and one each of E. macarthurii and E. cladocalyx? occur on the slope above the changing-sheds.

Two other eucalypts in the neighbourhood, both proposed as registered trees for reason of their visual amenity, are the E. globulus at 18 Larchwood Ave and the E. microcorys at Westmere Primary School.

Pt Erin Park

As well as the patriachal E. globulus near the Harbour Bridge approach, there are good examples here of E. botryoides, E. obliqua, E. ovata and E. eugenioides.

Fowld's Park

The western half, approximately, of the plantation here is composed of E. saligna and the eastern half E. fastigata; a few E. macarthurii, E. viminalis, E. pulchella and E. botryoides are present too.

Orua Bay

According to Burstall and Sale (184 p. 32):

> "One outstanding eucalypt grows at Orua Bay, on Manukau Harbour, in an area which is now a park administered by the Auckland Regional Authority. Dr H.H. Allan had this tree as No. 125 in his list of historic trees and stated: 'Planted in 1836 by the Rev. James Hamlin when he established the mission station. The seed

came from Sydney. The tree is threatened by the sea'.

Mr Allsop, a retired quantity surveyor, bought the home and area on which the tree stands, built up the area and saved the tree, which the regional parks staff now watch over.

This could have been the first exotic tree planted in the greater Auckland area. Several efforts made to identify the species have failed and no flowers or seed capsules have been seen. Because of the odd colour of the leaves in the upper branches, the tree is known as the red gum."

A different attribution, and one I believe more probable to be correct, is to be found in Coulthard's local history (1963). On p. 81 he states:

> "Now the site on which Daphne was built is perhaps of historic interest to Orua Bay, as here is still growing an old eucalyptus tree planted in 1865 by Mr Thomas Coulthard. Raised from seed brought from Melbourne by William Cole ... This tree is now the only one left among many that used to grow along the foreshore of the Bay. This historic survivor of all these trees is probably a species of stringy-bark ...".

From various indications of locality in the above work, this tree is the one located c. 250 m west of the end of Gap Rd (grid ref R11 532602), between the two houses at the end of this section of beach frontage. It is a messmate stringybark (E. obliqua) 20+ m tall 200+ cm dbh. I have not located a voucher for Burstall and Sale's record, but because their account postdates that of Coulthard's, with his "only one left", they almost certainly are referring to the same tree.

Waikumete Cemetery

Along the south-eastern boundary (Glenview Rd) there are numerous E. pulchella, then a mixture that includes this species with E. robusta, E. cladocalyx, E. macarthurii, E. punctata, E. botryoides, E. pilularis (and another stringybark sp.?) and also the only E. guilfoylei (two trees c. 10 m tall) I know of in Auckland.

Elsewhere in the cemetery, on bare clay, ditch edges and in low manuka there are wildings of E. ovata, E. botryoides, E. obliqua and possibly E. saligna. E. pulchella and E. sieberi are noted as naturalized here (Webb et al. 1988); I have not seen specimens.

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LILIUM FORMOSANUM II

E.K. Cameron

Further observations since my previous article (Cameron 1987) on the naturalised lily, Lilium formosanum, are presented.

BAY OF ISLANDS

* Just south-east of the Stone Store by the Kerikeri Inlet in the Bay of Islands, L. formosanum is locally abundant over a large area in rough pasture and in a shrubby area under eucalyptus trees (260 P05 985642). Scattered plants are also present on several roadside banks in this general area on both sides of the Kerikeri River. On 10 February 1988 most plants were in full flower; the majority with 1-(2) flowers per stem and less than 1 m tall. Occasional plants were up to 1.6 m tall with a maximum of 9 flowers per stem. Virtually all flowers had a purple-red stripe along the keels of the perianth segments but the very occasional plant had pure white flowers. The plants were a glorious sight due to their large showy flowers which were visible from quite a distance.

There was a ¼ acre of wild L. formosanum at Kerikeri, which was widespread and well established (roadsides and some vacant sections) in 1938-39 - some people thought it a weed. It is very probable around Kerikeri that L. formosanum, together with Gladiolus undulatus, montbretia, briar roses and raspberries (of a sort) all spread from early missionary plantings (E.K. Reynolds pers.comm., 1989).

* Also on 10 February 1988 a few wild, flowering plants were seen on the north side (western side of Doves Bay and south side of Tareha Point) and south side (Kerikeri Inlet Rd) of the Kerikeri Inlet.

WEST NORTHLAND

On 17 February 1988 wild L. formosanum were frequent for at least the first 200 m (as far as I went) and some 30 m either side of the track to Maunganui Bluff from Aranga Beach (260 007 624035). The plants had 1-8 flowers per stem and all flowers were pure white. The plants stood out on this coastal slope amongst flax, bracken, toetoe (Cortaderia splendens) and rank grass (mainly tall fescue and coxfoot).

POHUEHUE

Also on 17 February there was a single flowering plant (3 or 4 flowers) on the road cutting west side at the top of the Pohuehue Viaduct hill (260 R09 586252). There has been a landslip here since this sighting.