

## EUCALYPTS AT WAIKUMETE CEMETERY, AUCKLAND

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Of the around 800 currently known species of eucalypts – *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia*, *Angophora* of the family Myrtaceae – (Wilcox 1997), about 200 or so are estimated to have been introduced to New Zealand at various times as ornamental, forestry, and farm trees. Auckland has a good representation of eucalypts, one of the most diverse collections being at Waikumete Cemetery at Glen Eden, west Auckland. This cemetery is notable for the rich assemblage of exotic wild flowers species (Cameron et al. 1997: no. 67).

The history of the gums at Waikumete is not well known other than that shelter belts were planted prior to the cemetery opening in 1886 (Gilligan 1997), and that the celebrated narrow-leaved peppermints (*Eucalyptus pulchella*) were planted in 1918, as *E. amygdalina* (Watters 1938). Thus, the bigger trees are likely to be in excess of 100 years old. Many are obviously much younger than this. The soil here coincidentally is gumland clay - old kauri country - and as it happens, suitable for growing many species of gums, especially stringybarks and blackbutt. Gardner (1987, 1989) has previously commented on the eucalypts at Waikumete. Species recorded are as follows.

***Corymbia ficifolia*:** Red flowering-gum. Just a few trees.

***Eucalyptus aggregata*:** Black gum. In the mixed row of gums adjoining Glenview Road. Rarely recorded in New Zealand.

***Eucalyptus botryoides*:** Southern mahogany. Also known as *E. saligna* subsp. *botryoides*. Numerous, but many trees have died, and others are suffering badly from attack from lace lerp (*Cardiaspina fiscella*).

***Eucalyptus capitellata*:** Brown stringybark. Several large, healthy trees, Eucalyptus Drive. Has also been identified as *E. baxteri* and *E. blaxlandii*.

***Eucalyptus cladocalyx*:** Sugar gum. Recorded by Gardner (1989).

***Eucalyptus cinerea*:** Silver dollar gum. Comparatively recent planting, in the newer part of the cemetery.

***Eucalyptus consideniana*:** Yertchuk. Represented in the grove near the crematorium. Rarely recorded in New Zealand.

***Eucalyptus diversicolor*:** Karri. A few large trees, but mostly of unimpressive in form. The best tree is in the grove below the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus eugenioides*:** Thin-leaved stringybark. Several large trees in the grove below the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus caliginosa*:** New England stringybark. Identified by M. I. H. Brooker (Canberra).

***Eucalyptus fastigata*:** Brown barrel. Several large trees in the grove near the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus globoidea*:** White stringybark. Some good trees in the grove near the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus guilfopylei*:** Yellow tingle. Two large trees in the row of mixed gums adjoining Glenview Road. Rarely recorded in New Zealand. A very distinctive eucalypt from Western Australia, with rough bark, compound inflorescences, and *discolorous leaves*.

***Eucalyptus longifolia*:** Woollybutt. One tree only, in the grove near the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus macarthurii*:** Camden woollybutt. Numerous. Coppices strongly after felling.

***Eucalyptus microcorys*:** Tallowwood. A group of healthy trees in the grove near the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus muelleriana*:** Yellow stringybark. A group of large, healthy trees in the eucalypt block off Eucalyptus Drive, and also present in the Glenview Road avenue and in the mixed grove near the crematorium. One of the species most preferred by local sawmillers.

***Eucalyptus obliqua*:** Messmate stringybark. Some large specimens adjoining Glenview Road, and numerous others in the higher part of the cemetery, near the water tank. A rather squat, malformed type, and obviously not a suitable provenance for forestry.

***Eucalyptus ovata*:** Swamp gum. Several.

***Eucalyptus pilularis*:** Blackbutt. Only a few trees here, the largest being near the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks. Large and healthy. Well suited to the gumland soils of the region. A popular species with local sawmillers.

***Eucalyptus piperita*:** Sydney peppermint. In the grove near the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus pulchella*:** White peppermint. Numerous large trees fringing Eucalyptus Drive, and also Glenview Road. Generally rather gnarled, here, but reasonably healthy. Very narrow leaves, and smooth white bark are distinctive features. Planted in 1918 as *E. amygdalina*.

***Eucalyptus punctata*:** Grey gum. Represented in the mixed row adjoining Glenview Road.

***Eucalyptus radiata*:** Narrow-leaved peppermint. A few trees.

***Eucalyptus resinifera*:** Red mahogany. A few trees.

***Eucalyptus robusta*:** Swamp mahogany. One of the commonest eucalypts at Waikumete. Numerous large trees, but now suffering from the combined ravages of insects pests, including the leaf-mining sawfly (*Phylacteophaga froggatti*), brown lace lerp (*Cardiaspina fiscella*) and the eulophid eucalypt gall (*Ophelimus*). Observed regenerating here.

***Eucalyptus saligna*:** Sydney blue gum. Numerous trees, especially in the eucalypt block off Eucalyptus Drive.

***Eucalyptus sieberi*:** Silvertop ash. Several large, but now unhealthy trees in the grove near the crematorium.

***Eucalyptus tereticornis*:** Forest red gum. Several healthy trees of moderate size near the crematorium, Acmena Avenue.

***Eucalyptus viminalis*:** Manna gum or ribbon gum. Several.

### References

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