

Apex Tree & Garden Experts

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7 November 2021

Lynda Douglas
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HOMEBUSH NSW

Email: lyndadouglas@iinet.com.au
Ref: DouglasL.Homebush.rpt2

**STRATHFIELD COUNCIL
RECEIVED**

DA2022.01

DATE 13 January 2022

TREE ASSESSMENT

91-93 ABBOTSFORD ROAD, HOMEBUSH, NSW.

This report has been commissioned by Lynda Douglas of 91-93 Abbotsford Road, Homebush in relation to a mature **Eucalyptus scoparia** (Willow Gum) located in the strip of land between the tennis court and the back fence. Ms Douglas became concerned about the tree due to the amount of bark necrosis at the base of the trunk and indicated that her neighbour at the rear had also expressed concern about the tree due to the thin canopy and the amount of deadwood in the tree.

The tree has been inspected by ground-based observations using Visual Tree Assessment techniques (VTA). VTA undertaken by tree professionals is a recognised systematic method of identifying tree characteristics and hazard potential.

TREE REPORT:

Tree #1: **Eucalyptus scoparia** (Willow Gum)

(Located in the strip of land between the tennis court and the back fence)

The tree attains a height of approximately (~) 15 metres, has a canopy spread of ~ 12 metres and a Diameter at Breast Height (dbh) of ~ 800mm. The tree is in poor health and is of fair to good form. It has a SHORT useful life expectancy (ULE).

During recent tree surgery works we were able to assess the Longicorn Beetle and Jewel Beetle damage at the base of the tree and found that the tree had been completely ring-barked, mainly by the Jewel Beetle damage. Please see Photographs #1 and #2 below. Jewel Beetles tend to infest trees that are in poor health and the trees will often be completely ringbarked before Borer activity is noticed. This is in contrast to the Longicorn Borers where their workings can generally be seen on trees after a year or two.



Photograph #1: Showing front of Willow Gum trunk.



Photograph #2: Back of Willow Gum trunk showing complete ringbarking.

In this instance, as the tree has been ringbarked, it will continue to decline in health over time and as such I would recommend that it be removed.

I have included a schedule of suitable screen trees, below, which gives some excellent recommendations for replacement trees that will grow well in this area. If you choose Australian Natives such as Turpentines and Spotted Gums, these are often available at the Forestry Nursery at West Pennant Hills. I have also included some guidelines for Planting Trees to help you with the installation of any new trees.



We are grateful for the opportunity to assess your trees. Our professional business thrives on recommendations and would be pleased if you could assist us in this way. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gatenby', written over a horizontal line.

SCOTT GATENBY
Managing Director

LEVEL 8 CONSULTING & PRACTICING ARBORIST
DIP. APP. SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE
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MEMBER OF LOCAL GOVT. TREE RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

WAIVER/LIMITATIONS

The findings of this report are based upon and limited to visual examination of the subject tree from ground level without any climbing, internal testing or exploratory excavation. Whilst the author provides comments on likely future hazards, this report does not claim to be exhaustive in its assessment of any potential hazards, or of any factors contributing to such hazards. If further practical investigation is required for any reason, including in response to any perceived or unresolved issue, then additional investigations or inspections can be undertaken if requested.

This report reflects the health and structure of the tree at the time of inspection. Apex Tree & Garden Experts cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy and safe under all circumstances or for a specified period of time. There is no guarantee that problems or defects with the assessed tree, will not arise in the future. Liability will not be accepted for damage to person or property as a result of failure of the assessed tree.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the client. Apex Tree & Garden Experts does not accept any responsibility for its use by any other party. This report must be read in its entirety. No part of this report may be referred to, verbally or in writing, unless taken in full context of the whole report.

**MEDIUM SCREEN SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES
(UP TO 12 METRES)**

SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Callistemon spp (Bottlebrush)	Australian native. Many different cultivars are available, and they all attract our nectar feeding birds.	~ 3	N
Metrosideros spp (Iron wood)	These New Zealand shrubs have stunning red flowers and can have variegated foliage. They are hardy and suitable for seaside areas.	~ 4	
Elaeocarpus reticulatus (Blueberry Ash)	Australian native with colourful blue fruit. Requires regular hedging and full sun to maintain foliage density. Forms available with white or pink, attractively fringed flowers. May grow to 8 metres but best kept at 3 to 4 metres.	~ 8	N
Eleocarpus eumundii (Eumundi Quandong)	Lovely evergreen foliage plant with dark green glossy leaves and deep bronze-red new growth. It has scented cream flowers during summer followed by decorative dark blue fruit. It has a narrow canopy spread.	~ 12	N, M
Pittosporum rhombifolium (Syn Auranticarpa rhombifolia) (Diamond Leaf or Qld Pittosporum)	Dense canopy with dark green rhomboid-shaped leaves and clusters of creamy star-shaped flowers in spring followed by vibrant orange berries. The tree is especially attractive when the berries are on full display.	~ 12	
Gordonia axillaris (Fried Egg Tree)	Good specimen screen tree with large white and yellow flowers. The mottled trunk is also attractive.	~ 5	
Arbutus unedo (Irish Strawberry Tree)	Has fragrant urn shaped flowers and red fruit. Slow growing with attractive bark. Not recommended for planting near bushland areas.	~ 10	
Photinia spp (Photinia)	Very densely foliated shrubs or small trees with attractive new growth in shades of red. Great for formal hedging, these plants are at their best when clipped regularly.	~ 3	
Fraxinus griffithii (Evergreen Flowering Ash)	Leaves are pale green above and silvery beneath. Its young, brown, square shoots are downy. White flowers appear in spring. It prefers dry, warm regions and deep soil.	~10	

KEY TO ATTRIBUTES:

D	Deciduous
E	Eucalypt
F	Fast growth rate

M	Medium growth rate
N	Native
S	Slow growth rate

DECIDUOUS TREES			
SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Acer palmatum (Japanese Maple)	Numerous cultivars available. Small, vase shaped tree branching from close to ground level, with brilliant red autumn foliage. Hardy in most regions	~ 15	
Acer rubrum (Red Maple)	Spectacular red autumn foliage.	~ 12	
Acer japonicum (Full Moon Maple)	Single trunked small tree with spreading crown and attractive autumn foliage. Better in cool regions.	~ 10	
Magnolia sp (stellata, heptapeta quinquepeta and x soulangiana).	Well known flowering trees ranging in size from the small M. stellata up to M. x soulangiana, a place in every garden can be found for a magnolia. Treat with TLC and they respond in kind.	~ 12	
Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe Myrtle)	Large clusters of frilly pink to deep red flowers dominate the foliage in mid to late summer. In cooler areas, the small oval leaves turn gold dropping off in autumn. Flower heads appear at the tips of the current season's growth. They are largest on strong growths, encouraged by pruning the main branches in winter. If not pruned the tree develops an attractive, open shape with massed smaller heads.	~ 7	
Nyssa sylvatica (Tupelo)	Pyramidal form deciduous tree with stunning red autumn foliage. They lose their leaves early in autumn and get them back later in Spring. This makes them perfect for many gardens so winter sun can be maintained. Always prune to a single central leader – remove competing secondary upward heading shoots.	~ 11	
Pyrus sp. (NOT ussuriensis!) (Pear)	Slow growing and semi-evergreen trees. They bear attractive autumn foliage and their flower clusters are fragrant. White flowers appear with new leaves in spring.	~ 8	
Libidibia ferrea (Leopard tree)	Attractive small-medium sized tree. Semi-deciduous. Spectacular bark and bright yellow flowers. Attracts birds, bees and butterflies. Delicate layered foliage with vary small acacia-type leaves.	~ 13	
Acer campestre (Field Maple)	Compact, slow growing small tree with a dense round canopy and a somewhat corky bark. Leave turn a beautiful clear yellow in autumn	~15	

DECIDUOUS TREES			
SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Ulmus parvifolia (Chinese Elm)	A graceful small to medium shade tree. with handsome flaking bark of greys, tans and reds.	~ 15	
Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea' (Golden Ash)	It bears pale yellowish green summer foliage which deepens in autumn. Twigs turn yellow in winter.	~ 15	
Fraxinus raywoodii (Claret Ash)	Deep red autumn foliage makes this one of the most striking deciduous trees. Quite drought tolerant.	~ 15	
Toona australis (Australian Red Cedar)	One of Australia's native deciduous trees. Ideal small shade tree. Deep moist soil for best growth.	~ 15	
Ulmus lutescens (Golden Elm)	This beautiful golden deciduous tree is cold climate resistant which requires fertile, moist soil for good growth.	~ 15	
Sapium sebiferum (Chinese Tallow tree)	Attractive tree with red and bronze Autumn foliage. Best colours are achieved on drier sites, but water well through summer.	~ 15	
Fagus sylvatica (Copper Beech)	Beautiful purple foliated small shade tree.	~ 25	
Carya illinoensis (Pecan)	It makes fast growth. Quite frost resistant, it needs long, hot summers to make growth and set fruit. Its leaves are long with many narrow, glossy grey-green leaflets.	~ 15	
Liquidambar styraciflua (Liquidambar)	These impressive trees produce some of the most spectacular Autumn foliage. There are some newer cultivars which have a more columnar form and are better used than self-sown specimens.	~ 25	
Quercus palustris (Pin Oak)	Relatively fast growing. Leaves turn an amazing bronze in autumn. It is conical in shape.	~ 15	

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EUCALYPTS & NATIVES SUITABLE FOR THE SYDNEY REGION

SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Eucalyptus haemastoma (Scribbly Gum)	The scribbles formed on the bark of this tree are actually caused by the larvae of a moth as it tunnels and feeds within the bark. Small enough to fit into most gardens, it can also be used to feed your koala collection. Must have good drainage.	~ 10-15	E, N
Ceratopetalum apetalum (Coachwood)	This local rainforest species needs reliable irrigation. It has interesting bark and flowers and hedges well when intermingled with NSW Christmas bush, <i>Ceratopetalum gummiferum</i> .	~ 15	N
Cupaniopsis anacardioides (Tuckeroo)	Medium sized tree with a dense, glossy canopy that is tolerant of salt spray, and thus ideal for seaside areas. Good shade tree.	~ 8-15	N
Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Pink Flowered Ironbark)	The black bark, bluish leaves and pink flowers make this an interesting feature in bush-style gardens.	~ 6-10	E, N
Eucalyptus agglomerata (Blue-leafed Stringybark) Koala Food	Forget about those <i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i> s, rip them out and plant one of these instead. Very similar in appearance to the <i>nicholii</i> , this Sydney district native has none of the defects inherent to its inbred cousin. Caution: using this species instead of <i>E. nicholii</i> may eventually send your arborist broke!	~ 40	E, N
Angophora costata (Red Gum)	This wonderful tree is the definitive Australian native plant, along with the Blackboy or Grass tree. Wiggly branches, lightly knobbed trunk and the most spectacular shades of red and pink bark. No garden should be without one.	~ 20	E, N
Syncarpia glomulifera (Turpentine)	The Latin name for this tree roughly translates as: ovaries all stuck together and there are lots and lots of them! The kids will have fun imagining that the fruits are actually flying saucers. Very dependable tree.	~ 40-45	N
Eucalyptus maculata (Spotted Gum)	The interestingly blotched grey bark that is shed in patches to create a patchwork of grey/green/pink and ochre is the main attraction of this handsome tree. These straight trunked species is of a broad conical form and bear white flowers in winter followed by small, urn-shaped seed capsules. Spectacular in mixed stands with white-barked <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> , pink-barked <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> and reddish-barked <i>Angophora costata</i> .	~ 30	E, N
Eucalyptus citriodora (Lemon-scented Gum)	Attractive pink or pale pink bark and the new leaves of this tree are strongly lemon scented. This delightful citrus fragrance is apparent particularly after rain. The hollows that form in this species are favoured by rosellas as nesting holes.	~ 20	E, N

EUCALYPTS & NATIVES SUITABLE FOR THE SYDNEY REGION

SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Eucalyptus microcorys (Tallowood)	This densely foliated, rough-barked tree is widely used in avenue plantings. The wind rustles their leaves delightfully and they should be planted in groups of 3 so they can talk amongst themselves.	~ 40	E, F, N
Eucalyptus saligna (Sydney Blue Gum)	Under forest conditions the Sydney Blue Gum may grow to 50 metres, but when planted in the open without competition is rarely bigger than 25m.	~ 30-50	E, N
Argyrodendron actinophyllum (Black Jack)	In the plant world, this is the equivalent of the 500-pound canary, this tree makes its presence known. Similar in appearance to Port Jackson Fig, it produces enormous buttressing roots and a canopy that may exceed 40 metres in diameter at maturity. The specimen in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney is well worth a visit. Not suitable for town houses!	~ 50	N
Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Box)	Is a relatively slow growing species but is frost and drought tolerant. It is one of Australia's premium honey producing trees.	~10-15	E, N, S

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COLUMNAR TREES			
SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Cupressus sempervirens Swanes Golden (Pencil Pine)	Green foliage flecked with deeper golden yellow gold tips. It is frost tender and slow growing.		
Cupressus sempervirens (Italian Cypress or Green Pencil Pine)	This species is more narrowly columnar. An elegant statement in the landscape. Tolerates dry conditions.		
Callitris columellaris (Cypress Pine)	Dark furrowed bark and very fine dark green foliage. In cultivation it is strikingly different, making a dense column of slightly billowed form and retaining this shape even with age.		
Callitris rhomboides (Port Jackson Cypress)	The fine foliage is mid-green, changing in cold winters to a deep purplish brown. The woody, angular cones form clusters on the branches within the foliage and persist for years without releasing their seed.		
Cupressus torulosa (Bhutan Cypress)	An elegant tree with a long-pointed crown broader at the base. It is fast growing. It produces small purple cones when young but ripens shiny brown. It grows best in mild, very moist climates.		
Populus nigra (Black Poplar)	This tree is unsustainable for small gardens due to its suckering habit. It has dark, deeply furrowed bark. Its large, diamond-shaped leaves, bronze when young, become bright green and yellow in autumn held on thin stalks, giving the impression of constant movement. Male trees produce black catkins in mid-winter.		
Eleocarpus eumundii (Eumundi Quandong)	Lovely evergreen foliage plant with dark green glossy leaves and deep bronze-red new growth. It has scented cream flowers during summer followed by decorative dark blue fruit. It has a narrow canopy spread.		N, M
Stenocarpus sinuatus (Queensland Firewheel Tree)	Evergreen shrubs and trees. These bear umbels of tubular, cream to red flowers with knob-shaped stigmas protruding through splits in the tubes. The leaves are alternate and simple. They do best in full sun and fertile, well-drained soil. Water generously in summer, less in winter.		
Agathis robusta (Queensland Kauri)	This tall tree has thick, deep green leaves. It prefers warm temperatures to tropical locations.		
Araucaria columnaris (Cook Island Pine)	Its leaves are small, scaly and densely overlapping in adult form only. Medium fast growing. Exaggeratedly columnar.		

COLUMNAR TREES			
SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Araucaria cunninghamii (Hoop Pine)	Moderately fast growing under good conditions. Not very frost hardy but fairly resistant to dry conditions in winter once established, although preferring good summer rainfall. The new bark is copper-hued.		
Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island Pine)	Upright with a regular branching patten, conical form and fast growing. These are wind tolerant, retaining their vertical habit. They thrive in deep sand, relying in water when young. They tolerate dry weather conditions once established. It is shade tolerant when young and can be long lasting in pots.		
Eucalyptus maculata (Spotted Gum)	These straight trunked species are of a broad conical form. It has thick, mottled, grey-green bark that is shed in patches to create a patchwork of grey/green/pink/and ochre. These bear white flowers in winter followed by small, urn-shaped seed capsules.		E, N

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OTHER RECOMMENDED TREES

SPECIES	COMMENTS	~ Height (Metres)	Attributes
Xylosma japonica (Xylosma)	Often mistaken for Lilly Pilly, these shrubs feature new growth in shades of bronze and orange but do not produce fruit. Their smallish, finely textured leaves make them ideal for hedging.		
Allocasuarina cunninghamiana (River She-oak)	Quick growing Australian native. Other species available which can vary in height from 4m to 20m.		N
Cupressocyparis leylandii (Leighton Green Cypress)	Popular quick growing hybrid conifer. Many cultivars available in varying foliage colours. Can be clipped to almost any height.		
Persea americana gratissima (Avocado)	Native of Central America. Does well in rich, well-drained soil in a protected shaded area. Drought and frost tender. Does well in some areas of Sydney producing lots of fruit. ~ 15m		
Pinus pinea (Stone Pine)	Source of the delicious pine nuts purchased in shops today. Also called Umbrella Pine because of its shape. Hardy slow growing tree best suited to drier and cooler areas.		
Picea abies (Norway Spruce)	A dense tree that easily blocks out wind and neighbours, it is ideal for use as a privacy barrier, windscreen, or even a traditional showpiece. Attracts and creates a safe haven for wildlife! You'll enjoy its deep rich colour year-round and it is even drought tolerant.		

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PLANTING TREES

When planting trees it is most important that the soils around the tree are properly loosened and de-compacted to allow for the free growth of the roots of your new plant. Trees which are planted into compacted soils, are root bound and/or have to compete with surrounding grass rarely grow well.

Your first step in planting your tree is to select good plant stock. Two of the major things to look out for is that the tree is not pot bound i.e. have roots circling around the container or at the base of the stem but have developed a nice open branching root structure and that the tree has a single central leader. Multiple trunks may look bushy and better value but will almost always lead to poorly attached trunks which have a far increased chance of failure when the tree grows larger. All trees should be pruned to a single central leader from ground level and from there on they can branch out. If these two most important points are taken into account when selecting a tree, it is more likely to be a vigorously growing and safe specimen into the longer term.

Your next step is to ensure that the ground into which you are planting the tree is loose and friable to a depth of at least 300mm. The optimal depth for soil loosening would be 500mm. This is easier and best carried out with a garden fork.

The soil need not be turned over but must be broken into small lumps (or peds) to allow proper root growth out from the planted tree. All grass and other competing plants should be removed from within 1.5 metres of the tree to eliminate competition for water and nutrients. A larger area de-compacted will be better for the tree in the longer term however, initially, a 2m circle should be sufficient. This 2m diameter circle should then be mulched with high quality brush mulch to a depth of 100mm. Drip irrigation can be laid underneath the mulch at this stage to help encourage tree root growth.

Weeds can be controlled with herbicide such as Roundup (do not spray the stems) or temporarily controlled by using three or four layers of newspaper on top of the soil but beneath the mulch. The newspaper will break down in time but still allow water and oxygen through to the soil. All trees will need to be watered for the first few years and then intermittently during dry spells to ensure good growth.

By de-compacting the soil further out from the tree as it grows will also tend to speed the rate of growth by allowing roots through to what would be previously compacted and/or unavailable soil areas.

Mulch should be topped up annually to a depth of 100mm. Your newly planted tree could also be lightly fertilised with a complete fertiliser on an annual basis. A general rule of thumb is about one small handful per square metre.

The trees you plant today will give you and others joy for many years to come.

Plant your legacy today.