



# DROUIN TREE WALKS

### Disclaimer

Walking in woodland areas and/or high traffic situations can be dangerous. Not all sections of the walks will comply with current accessibility standards and extra care needs to be taken when crossing roads without designated crossing points. Participants take part in any of the walks in this booklet at their own risk.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees, The Committee for Drouin and the Baw Baw Shire will not be responsible for death, injury or loss or damage of property.



## Welcome

This booklet aims to showcase the incredible wealth of Drouin's remnant and planted trees. Just 150 years ago the whole area was part of the Great Gippsland Forest making it one of the last places in Victoria to be developed. Many of the giant eucalypts of the forest were cut down for timber and to make way for the railway and farmland. Fortunately, some have survived within the current residential boundary of Drouin and today testify to incredible height, girth, age, habitat and historical value. The trees are 'giants' living in the town.

In addition, early pioneers and townspeople beautified the town by planting trees. Today we are privileged to have a number of superb elms, oaks, planes and other exotic trees of substantial age, plus wonderful avenues of trees planted by Buln Buln Parks and Gardens staff from the 1960s.

The trees highlighted in these walks are all listed on the Baw Baw Shire Significant Tree Register (Drouin), which was developed by The Friends of Drouin's Trees.



## Safe Walking

- Take your time; be observant; enjoy the sights, sounds, touch and smells of the significant trees of Drouin.
- Be prepared for the season; wear appropriate clothes; always carry water and snacks; wear sturdy walking shoes.
- Wear a high visibility jacket or outer garment.
- Supervise children and dogs **at all times**.
- Stay on designated paths where possible.
- Cross roads with care.
- If you need to walk on a public road always walk on the right side facing oncoming traffic. Public roads are not shared roads. Vehicles have the right of way.
- Large trees can pose a risk on windy days. Change your route if you need to.
- Please take your rubbish with you.
- In summer watch out for snakes.

Friends of Drouin's Trees welcome your feedback  
[friendsofdrouinstrees@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdrouinstrees@gmail.com)  
 or find us at [drouinstrees.blogspot.com](http://drouinstrees.blogspot.com)

Trees provide shade reducing the ambient temperature by as much as 8 degrees

## Drouin's Giants

The following three species are the most prevalent remnant eucalypt giants in Drouin:

### *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* or Mountain Grey Gum

- 'Monkey Gum' for the koalas that lived in them
- In Drouin about 30-35 m tall
- Fibrous, rough bark at the bottom
- Smooth trunk above - pale grey with whitish-yellow-cream streaks
- Long, 12-35 cm lance shaped leaves
- Buds and fruit on flattened stems
- White flowers in Autumn



*E. cypellocarpa* 'The Bill Kraft Giant'

### *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* or Strzelecki Gum

- Named after explorer Paul De Strzelecki
- Listed as 'Threatened' in Victoria
- Only exist in 130 km band East to West Gippsland
- Drouin: about 30-35 m tall
- Prefer low lying wet land
- Smooth trunk of pale grey-tan with cream patches, rough trunk up to 3 m above ground
- Buds, fruits in groups of seven
- White flowers in Spring
- Leaves often have a wavy margin
- Very strong eucalyptus smell when leaves crushed



*E. strzeleckii*

### *Eucalyptus obliqua* or Messmate

- Brown, thick, rough, stringy bark in longitudinal furrows
- Drouin: about 25-30 m tall
- Prefers open forest and foothill situations
- Glossy green, curved or 'oblique' shaped leaves
- White flowers in summer



*E. obliqua Buln Buln Road*

	Name of walk	Kms	Longer Option	Page
SHORT WALKS	1 McNeilly Wetlands	1.5		8
	2 Binbeal Road	1.5		11
	3 Trees of Many Nations	2.0		14
MEDIUM WALKS	4 The Settlement Giant Walk	2.5		20
	5 Balfour Road Gateway	2.6		26
	6 Town Centre	2.7		30
	7 Civic Park & Rec Reserve	2.8		36
	8 Summerhill Wetlands	4.0		42
	9 Jack's Giant & Friends	4.0	4.4	48
LONG WALKS	10 Gum Scrub Creek Urban Forest	4.2	4.9	54
	11 Bill Kraft Giant	5.4		62
	12 The Big Walk	5.5	6.5	68
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The street trees, parks, wetlands and reserves of Drouin provide vital habitat for a range of native wildlife, all under pressure from increasing urbanisation.

## Birds

Drouin has more than 90 species of native birds in its urban environment. This is an extraordinary number for a town. Many of the birds use hollows of old eucalypt trees and some build their nests high in the canopy. Some live in low shrubs and areas of dense cover, and others in wetlands grass areas.



*Golden-headed Cisticola*



*Grey Butcherbird*



*Red-browed Finch*



*Spotted Pardalote*



*Golden Whistler*

Trees improve  
air quality by  
absorbing pollutants

## Possums and Sugar Gliders

Sugar Gliders, Ringtail and Brushtail Possums are common inhabitants of Drouin's trees. Sugar Gliders are small nocturnal possums that glide from tree to tree using a gliding membrane which connects their fore and hind legs. They bore holes with their teeth to access the stored liquid 'gum'. It is this staining down the tree that gives the clue that sugar gliders might be active in a tree.

## Insects, spiders and lizards

Look closely at the bark around the base of trees and you will find insects, spiders and lizards, all part of the food cycle and contributing to a healthy diverse urban habitat.



*Sugar Glider*




*Imperial White Butterfly*

# 1. McNeilly Wetlands Walk

Award winning wetlands design in a six hectare park. A short, level walk around wetlands area. Gravel pathways are wide and well-constructed providing access for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. These wetlands were named after the pioneering McNeilly family who used this area as a summer grazing paddock for stock.

## Distance:

1.5 km if walked in figure of 8

1. From the entrance in Jackson Dr walk in either direction.
2. Lookout point: look over the lakes.
3. The very tall eucalypts  are Strzelecki Gums which are listed as threatened. Natural recruitment (regeneration) of this species is very evident from the young trees that have begun to prosper once the grazing and clearing of the area ceased.

The mature trees are excellent habitat for a wide range of native birds and animals. Even the fallen logs provide valuable hollows.



4. Wetland bird species to look for include ducks, swamphens, coots, grebes, etc on the water and warblers, grassbirds, wrens and cisticolas in the reed beds. Tree martins, parrots, cockatoos, galahs, and corellas are among the birds often seen using the hollows.
5. Black-shouldered Kites and Australian Kestrels can often be seen patrolling for some unwary prey. A pair of Black-shouldered Kites have nested in one of the Strzelecki Gums for the last few years.



*Eurasian Coot with chicks*



*Hoary-headed Grebe*

## 2. Binbeal Road Walk

**A walk along paths and grassy verges highlighting a eucalypt corridor with many habitat trees. Easy walk with gentle uphill slopes.**

**Distance: 1.5 km**

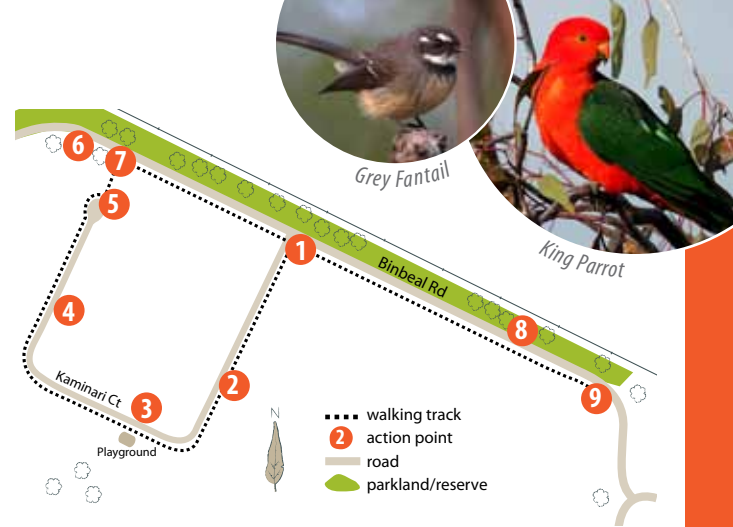
1. This walk starts on the south side of Binbeal Rd at the corner of Kamanari Crt.
2. Walk south down Kamanari Crt. Enjoy the views across the rural landscape.
3. Continue past the playground and follow the road uphill.
4. Stop along the way and look back over the 'plains' of Drouin. Note the remaining forest vegetation forming large corridors for wildlife. In the distance is the old Drouin Nature Reserve. This housing development exists on what were the old slaughterhouse areas of Drouin. The Matkovitch family who were the last owners of this land used names for the streets from their Montenegro history.
5. At the end of the court is a walk-link up to Binbeal Rd.

6. Binbeal Rd was once called Slaughterhouse Rd. Along its road sides are corridors of remnant Mountain Grey Gums and Messmates. Messmates have consistent bark over the length of their trunk and Mountain Grey Gums have bark which falls in long ribbons. Some of these old trees are 'giants' in excess of 4 m trunk girth.
7. Turn right and walk on the wide grassy verge along Binbeal Rd. The Mountain Grey Gums and Messmates form a very valuable shady, environment corridor.
8. Keep walking. Look carefully and try to find the trees which Baw Baw Shire has preserved for wildlife habitat. These trees which have been ring barked, otherwise would have been removed. But they now continue to provide shelter and nesting for wildlife as well as mutual support for the other remnant trees in the corridor. Research shows that trees are interdependent on each other via their root systems as well as their tree canopy. These old trees have been supporting each other in a community since before European settlement.
9. At the corner, turn around and retrace your steps back to the starting point.

Magpie



Trees filter water through their roots





### 3. Trees of Many Nations Walk

A fairly level walk with only one short uphill section. This route highlights some of the old planted trees of Drouin including oaks, planes and elms in avenues as well as superb remnant trees in bushland settings. The lower bush areas can be wet in winter.

**Distance: 2.0 km**

1. Start at Porter Memorial Park. This park area has 12 deciduous trees, mostly English Elms and English Oaks planted early in the 1900s. The large flowering gum which is approximately 60 years old was used by the Buln Buln Shire for seed stock.
2. Walk south east along Porter Pl on the path outside the Oak Street Kinder. These four beautiful old oaks were planted for shade, early in the 1900s when this area was the site of the sale yards of the district. These trees have trunk girths of approximately 3 m and are 18-20 m high.

3. At the last oak, walk into the little area known as J.C. Wells Park and walk to Oak St. You will see a Silky Oak about 60 years old, planted in the 1950s. Nectar feeding birds love the flowers.
4. Cross carefully over Main South Rd at the crossing point and walk down the shared roadway past the Old Drouin Butter Factory.
5. Alex Goudie Flora & Fauna Reserve and the Trees of Nations is ahead. This park was named in honour of Alexander Goudie who was three times Buln Buln Shire President. He had a strong commitment to the improvement of Drouin's environment. The park is set around existing



natural springs which form the lake and become the headwaters of Gum Scrub Creek crossing under the railway line just east of the park. In July 1988 as part of Australia's Bicentenary, trees were planted to acknowledge the various nationalities of people living in the Buln Buln Shire (cypresses, horse chestnut, golden rain tree, palms etc) and was called 'The Trees of Nations'.

Stay to the north of the pond and walk through grassy parkland to the east end of the park.

The parkland flows into 'Snake Gully' known as such for the snakes which came in on timber delivered to the old Drouin Butter Factory, and which slithered off down into the gully. This area has about 150 large native eucalypts – Mountain Grey Gums, Messmates, Strzeleckii Gums and Peppermint Gums. The grove of large gums at the end of the gully was once home to koalas in the early 1900s.



6. Walk uphill along Oddy St to Lardner Rd.
7. Turn right and head down Lardner Rd to no. 43.
8. Cross over to the south side. Outside the factory are two Flax-leaf and one Prickly-leaf Paperbark. The largest Flaxleaf, a superb example opposite no. 37, has a trunk girth of 1.5 m and is estimated to be 70 years old. It is covered in white flowers in summer. Stop and look up into the canopy. Ironically the Flax-leaf has a rough bark and the Prickly-leaf has smooth bark. The Lardner Road Drouin Butter Factory was built in 1939. At the height of its era it became the largest single supplier of milk to the Melbourne markets.



9. Keep walking down Lardner Rd. The avenue of twenty Plane trees with grey mottled trunks planted in the 1930s has been 'pollarded'. Pollarding involves pruning the upper branches, promoting a dense head of foliage. They have a 'balled' canopy shape in summer.
10. At the driveway of 1 Lardner Rd are two Norfolk Island pines which were planted by John Sutcliffe in 1889 for his house 'The Orient'. Mr Sutcliffe was a prominent early pioneer, councillor and businessman.
11. Cross over Main South Rd at the crossing point. Turn around and look back to the remnant Mountain Grey Gum, known as the 'Sutcliffe Giant', which sadly died but has been preserved as a habitat tree by the Baw Baw Shire.



12. Walk down this side of the road past the store, back towards your starting point. There are 21 heritage listed mature English Elms planted in a row early in the 1900s, which still provide a pleasant shady avenue



## 4. The Settlement Giant Walk

A walk along paths, formed tracks, grassy verges and areas of grassed parkland highlighting one of the oldest remnant giants in Drouin, and other significant habitat areas. Easy walk with gentle slopes. Grass areas are wet in winter.

**Distance: 2.5 km**

1. This walk starts at the small park on the corner of Springwater Drive and Settlement Road.
2. Look up at The Settlement Giant, behind the playspace. It is a Mountain Grey Gum, the largest remnant gum in Drouin. It is 12.5 m (41') in trunk girth, 30 m high, home to at least five different species of native birds and is approximately 300+ years old. Walk close and look up into the canopy. Imagine what stories this old giant could tell! The land here was used by some of Drouin's butchers as holding paddocks for their slaughterhouses or abattoirs. The Winters and the Colquhouns were both well known Drouin butchers. For many years this old giant gave shelter to stock.

... "Rest a while in a gumtree's  
welcome shade...  
Where the bellbirds' calls go ringing  
through the glade."  
(Will Rumble)



*The Settlement Giant*

3. Walk south down Settlement Rd to Shillinglaw Rd. Stop and take time to look back over the 'plains' of Drouin and the many tree corridors of this area. These are home to many birds and mammals.
4. Cross over Shillinglaw Rd and walk into the off-leash dog area. This used to be the home of the Drouin Pony Club before it moved out to Lardner. There are some large trees in this area providing valuable habitat for wildlife. Many dogs also love the paddock to run in!
5. Walk back through the trees to Settlement Rd and proceed south staying on the grassy verge.
6. After the creek, walk into the carpark area.
7. Continue through the car park area and turn right to walk on the gravel path around the oval.



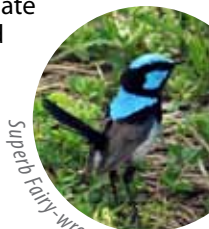
8. This lake area was man made under the direction of Leo Boeyen (Superintendent of Buln Buln Shire's Parks and Gardens department). Jack Cuthbertson, one of Drouin's notable construction operators, instructed his men to put the earth dug from the lake on to the back or west side creating 'islands' of earth. The seeds in that earth (now trees) are on these 'islands' which can be encircled with water in wet winters.



9. Many wetland birds can be seen on the lake and hiding in the reed beds: Eurasian Coots, Wood Ducks, Purple Swamphens, Chestnut Teal, White-faced Herons, Cormorants, Pacific Black Ducks. Can you spot any dragonflies? They pollinate plants and provide food for fish, frogs and birds in their larval stage.

10. At the south west corner there is a path heading off to the right.

11. This priceless ferngully is a glimpse into what it would have been like for the pioneers. Some ferns are up to 5 m in height. One bird watcher has noted 30+ species of native birds in this area. Superb Fairy Wrens are often seen with Rainbow Lorikeets, Galahs, Corellas, Grey Fantails, Kookaburras etc as well as smaller birds such as New Holland Honeyeaters, White Naped Honeyeaters, Brown Thornbills, Silver Eyes and Grey Shrike-thrushes. At the bridge return back on the path to the oval.



Superb Fairy-wren



12. Continue around the oval on the path.
13. As shown on the map, walk across the grass towards the crossing on Settlement Rd and then cross over to the south side of Lampard Rd. Walk east.
14. When you are opposite the entrance to the hockey fields cross over to the north side of Lampard Rd. Walk north alongside the synthetic hockey field.
15. Note the small bushland area between the two soccer fields on the left. Bellbirds (Bell Miners) frequent this area and the other nearby corridors of bush. Will Rumble owned the land and sold it to Buln Buln Shire in 1964. He wrote many poems about the birds in this bushland area.
16. At the north end of the sports fields are groups of trees planted about 1970. Although not remnants, they add to the corridors of trees around Bellbird Park – Spotted Gums, Blue Gums, Angophoras. Local residents mounted a campaign to save these trees in 2015. Take time to explore these beautiful trees.
17. At the north end of the park is Blackwood Crt. Walk through here and then along Blackwood Crt to the next intersection.
18. At Holland St turn left and continue to Settlement Rd retracing your steps back to the Settlement Giant.

## 5. Balfour Road Gateway Walk

**This is a short easy linear walk along Balfour Rd (the eastern gateway to Drouin) walking on grassy verges, a concrete path and one short gravel roadside section. The walk gives views to Drouin's south and takes in the highest point on the railway line between Sale and Melbourne. Please note that there is no parking allowed in the school grounds.**

**Distance: 2.6 km**

1. Start outside Chairo Christian School between the No. 1 and No. 2 entrance signs on the south side of Balfour Rd.
2. Walk east on the wide grassy verge past the school grounds, up to the high point of the land where you will find two English Elms (in front of the Equestrian Centre).

3. These trees are located on the highest point of the railway line between Melbourne and Sale. It marks the watershed divide between Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment to the west and the Gippsland Lakes Catchment to the east. They were probably planted by the original family who farmed here for many years. The Balfour family purchased the farm in about 1939. Mrs Balfour really valued these trees. It was her hope that at the time of the sale of her family's farmland, when the freeway was built, that these old trees would survive... and they have. The Drouin exit road from the freeway, where these two old trees are situated, was opened in June 1984. An interesting adjunct to this story is that Jim Balfour MP opened the freeway, but Jim Balfour is not directly related to the Drouin Balfour family!
4. Walk back towards Drouin, staying on the grassy verge on the school side of the road crossing carefully over the driveway exit and entrances.



5. Before the freeway was built, all this area was a lovely piece of native vegetation and an environmental gem. The Princes Freeway Drouin bypass was started in 1977 and officially opened by the Hon Jim Balfour MP, member for Narracan on 12th February 1981.
6. Keep walking west. On the north side of Balfour Rd there are native melaleucas, acacias, blackwoods and eucalypts after a long stretch of cleared land. The bushland is always alive with birds. Keep an eye out for Brown Thornbills, White-browed Scrub-wrens and Superb Fairy-wrens in the low scrub and Golden Whistlers, Spotted Pardalotes, parrots, lorikeets and honeyeaters in the canopy.
7. As you walk west continue along the path.
8. Stop and look over to the south side landscape. The Reservoir on the hill is a 30 million gallon (137 mega litres) reservoir supplying Drouin's town water that was built in the mid-late 1960s.
9. Can you spot the two remnant giants on the other side of the road? Both 30 m high with canopy widths of 20 m and girths of 5.7 m and 5 m. They are estimated to be 200+ years old and have many trunk hollows. Keep your eyes open for the many blue wrens in the undergrowth.
10. Enjoy the views here, then turn around and walk back the way you came.

11. After the sale of the Balfour farm for the freeway, the remainder of the land was purchased by Buln Buln Shire for the potential construction of saleyards for Warragul and Drouin. This did not eventuate and the land was subsequently sold to Chairo Christian School for their Middle and Secondary campus.





## 6. Town Centre Walk

A level walk along footpaths, grassy verges and a rough formed track. The walk shows some of our best loved town trees, mainly exotics but also one giant eucalypt remnant.

**Distance: 2.7 km**

1. Start at the Bendigo Community Bank car park. Walk west along the shared roadway beside the railway line. The row of old Lombardy Poplars are evident in early Drouin photos from the 1900s. Three large trees towards the west end stood behind the site of the blacksmiths run by Bill Tritschler and then Ernie Edwards.



2. Walk down through Memorial Park and check out the Jungle Fighter on the way. This extraordinary statue is the first depicting an Aussie soldier in jungle uniform: a two thirds replica cast in bronze by sculptor Ray Ewars from Frankston. A copy is located in Australia's War Memorial in Canberra.
3. The four large English Elms at the front of Memorial Park were part of a row of elms planted, as shown in the photo, to beautify Drouin's main street in its early settlement.
4. Walk uphill towards the Anglican Church, cross over to the church nature strip and turn left down Francis Ave behind the church.
5. Walk west along the grass and turn right behind the church. In front you will see a large tree at the corner of a fence. This splendid example of a *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* or Ironbark, is full of nectar feeding native birds in winter when it is covered in pinky white flowers. Not a remnant tree but very old. The bark of ironbarks is highly resistant to fire.



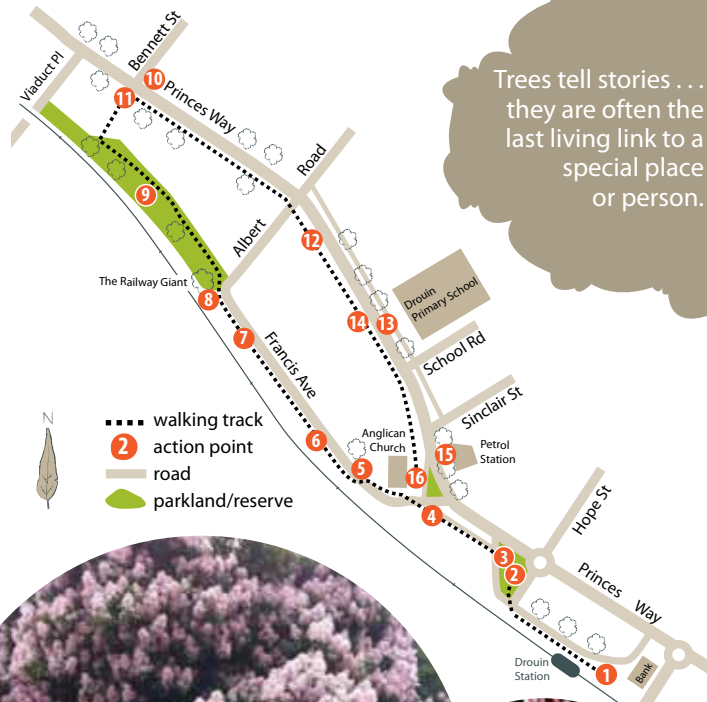
6. Cross over Francis Ave and walk west along the wide grassy verge.
7. Stop and look south across the southerly views of the sewerage ponds, farmland and new residential areas.
8. At the corner is 'The Railway Giant', a Mountain Grey Gum. This 30 m high tree has a trunk girth of 7.75 m and is estimated to be about 250 years old. Look for the many bird hollows.
9. Heading west, walk down the rough formed access track between the railway line and the houses into 'Trainspotters Park'. This has a planted Mountain Ash, a Messmate and a group of planted trees at its west end. Pied Currawongs often nest in these trees. Turn right and head up to Princes Way.
10. At this point take time to look at the Ficus trees planted on both sides of Princes Way. These trees were planted in August 1936 by pupils of Drouin State School as part of Arboretum Days. Sixty trees were originally planted and many older Drouin residents can remember planting 'their' tree. In summer this avenue of trees is ablaze with red, salmon, pink and orange colours and is the inspiration for 'The Ficus Festival' held in February each year since 1989... a spectacular entry to Drouin township.
11. Turn right and walk back up the gradual incline into town along Princes Way enjoying the Ficus trees as you go. In flower, the Ficus trees are a favourite of Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets and other nectar feeders.
12. After crossing Albert Rd take note of 'The Mistake Trees', spotted gums planted alongside the Ficus trees. In the 1980s there was a mixup with some young seedlings: instead of Ficus seedlings being planted, Spotted Gums were planted. The two species look very similar as seedlings. These Spotted Gums are now mature, 20 m high trees, with smooth bark and spotted grey brown markings. They also form an important part of the food cycle for native birds.



*Drouin's famous Ficus*

13. On the opposite side of Princes Way in front of the primary school is an avenue of Angophoras. These spectacular, sculptural trees were planted by Leo Boeyen (Superintendent of Parks and Gardens). These trees are about 50 years old and are an iconic landmark of two entrances to Drouin, here and along Main South Rd. They are sometimes called 'Rusty Gums' or 'Sydney Red Gums' because of trunk colour changes as the bark sheds, although they are not strictly a gum.
14. Look out for the summer flowering Jacarandas along the nature strip. Ernie Edwards, the Drouin blacksmith planted the first one at 146 Princes Way.
15. *Calodendrum capenses* or Cape Chestnuts are another of the significant trees of Drouin. If you look carefully you will have passed a couple on the nature strip as you walked, (No. 140 and house beside the Anglican Church). On the opposite side of the road are three on the nature strip outside the petrol station. These unusual trees bear a prolific display of large pink flowers in summer, sometimes surprising residents with a show before Christmas. The seeds were brought back from South Africa in the 1930s by Roy Everard Ross, the Shire Engineer of Buln Buln Shire for 21 years. He was passionate about trees. The R.E. Ross Trust, set up after his death, provided land acquisition grants enabling 'The Trust for Nature' to purchase large tracts of land for conservation.

16. You can return to your starting point by continuing along Princes Way.



Trees tell stories . . .  
they are often the  
last living link to a  
special place  
or person.



## 7. Civic Park & Recreation Reserve Walk

This walk is along footpaths, grassy verges and a short distance of rough uneven ground. One long set of steps and one short uphill section. The walk showcases a variety of planted trees and some old eucalypt giants.

**Distance: 2.8 km**

1. Start at the entrance to the Baw Baw Shire Civic Centre in Brynwood Ave. The seven tall Spotted Gums were planted in the 1970s and 1980s by the Buln Buln Shire. Trees grow well in Drouin due to the high rainfall and fertile soil. Walk to the Council entrance and follow the path around to the left.
2. Follow the path and cross to the set of steps in the rock wall. These walls were constructed by local aboriginal workers under a government training scheme in 1974. The young men worked with hatchets to chip the rocks to make them fit snugly into each other creating the incredible walls you see today. Leo Boeyen, Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, was the visionary of the project.



3. The beautiful Golden Elm beside the steps was planted at the time of the rock wall construction.
4. Continue up the steps and path towards the top. On your left is a cedar tree *Cedrus atlantica*, or more commonly 'The Christmas Tree'. It used to be decorated with lights at Christmas time by the Buln Buln Shire.
5. Continue to the top of the steps to Young St. As you stand looking either way along Young St, notice the row of 35 Pin Oaks planted down the centre median strip. Take note of those which are not pruned compared to those which have been cut for power lines... there's a big difference.
6. Turn right and walk west along Young St. There is no path on this north side so walk on the grass.

7. At the pedestrian crossing, at the bottom of the hill, you will be able to cross safely to the other side of the road. Keep walking up the hill in Young St.
8. Turn right into Sinclair St. The trees you will pass at this end of Sinclair St are Lilly Pillys. Four are mature trees about 70 years old. In summer they have white-greenish flowers followed by long lasting pink berries.
9. Walk up to and enter the Recreation Reserve on the shared roadway. This is home of the Drouin football, netball and badminton clubs.
10. Turn left just after the badminton clubrooms and look for a lane between buildings with the sporting heroes of Drouin on the wall. This leads to the netball courts. Walk across the netball courts to the playground area.

11. Hiding here on the east side of the playground is a most unusual tree: a Horse Chestnut or *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Thought to be about 45 years old, this tree has spectacular flowers and 'conkers'. It may be the only one in Baw Baw!



12. Take time to look at the old oak tree in the far left (NW) corner behind the guide hall: 20 m high and 20 m spread of canopy and used by many birds for shelter.
13. Walk along the back of the set of flats and turn left down the path. Stop and look up. This is the 'Victoria Road Giant', a remnant Mountain Grey Gum with a trunk girth of 6 m which has towered over this land long before European settlement.
14. Turn right and walk on the grassy verge alongside Victoria St. You're wondering? Yes, Victoria Rd was the original name and over time became Victoria St.
15. There are many remnant trees along this road, some inside the fence, some outside. One triple trunked Mountain Grey Gum giant opposite Alcorn St, has a trunk circumference of 7.2 m. All these trees provide valuable habitat for insects, birds etc.



16. Walk through the narrow gate and walk uphill on the rough formed track to the football oval.
17. At the top of the embankment turn right at the old oak tree. Walk around the oval taking time to look into the tree canopies. What birds can you see and hear?
18. Take the path down into Civic Park. Make time to look over the park and appreciate the splendid views of the town.
19. Take time to notice the old giant Messmate 'Grandfather', overlooking the park, up the hill on the left of the main path.
20. Walk down the winding 'snake' path to The K.A. Pretty Soundshell, named in honour of Keith Pretty, Shire Secretary of the Buln Buln Shire for almost 40 years. The Sound Shell, finished in 1995, was a joint venture between the Drouin Rotary Club and the Buln Buln Shire.
21. The L.G. Boeyen Gardens are on the right, below the rotunda. Leo Boeyen was Superintendent of Parks and Gardens for the Buln Buln Shire for 27 years. He designed and developed Civic Park and this little garden area was planted by him to reflect a native bushland stream. Council won a Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation Award for Civic Park in 1980 due to Leo's vision. Sadly in 2016 this garden was 'redeveloped'.

22. Continue along the footpath back towards the playground. Take the right fork in the path before the Jack Cuthbertson Memorial, erected in 2015. This leads you back to Brynwood Ave and up to the start of the walk.



## 8. Summerhill Wetlands Walk

A fairly flat, level walk. It has only one hill section that will require some fitness. Take your time. This walk features some old remnant gums and one of Drouin's most spectacular avenues of planted trees.

**Distance: 4 km**

1. Start at the walking path opposite no. 71 Lampard Rd. There is a large Strzelecki Gum giant outside no. 92 with a girth of 4.5 m and about 170 years old.
2. Walk along the wide level path. On the left is a small spring which was once the site of the old Drouin swimming hole. In 1910, a small concrete pool was constructed here. It used to be a very pretty piece of ferned bush! Walk for 0.5 km.



3. Take the first turn right before the playground continuing on the path to the large Strzelecki Gum inside the fence beside the lake.
4. This old gum has several pipe hollows. Walk around the lake. The lake is often frequented by ducks and waterhens. Be on the alert for warblers and grassbirds in the reeds.
5. After walking around the lake, head back to the playground on the wide path. In 2015, a Latham's Snipe was recorded near this site. Each year these world protected birds fly to and from Japan along the Asian flight path.

6. Around the playground area you will see five old Strzelecki Gums. Once this area abounded in these gums. *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* only exist in a 130 km band between Drouin and Traralgon. The species is listed as vulnerable under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
7. Walk south along the path to the road. Look south to the end of the path. The elevated area was once the site of the Stephenson-Maynard sawmill.
8. Turn left and head up Summerhill Blvd to Main South Rd. Take your time... it's a steep hill!
9. Turn left along Main South Rd. At the 'Serving Drouin' sign there is a grove of remnant Mountain Greys Gums and Peppermint Gums. The triple trunked gum is 5.15 m in girth. This area is often alive with native birds.



Crimson Rosella

10. Main South Rd is one of the most spectacular avenues in Drouin. In the 1960s, the remnant eucalypts in this area were complimented with angophora species planted by the then Buln Buln Shire. They are a native species from NSW and Qld.
11. The Angophora is a handsome large tree. The spectacular white flower heads in summer are great insect and bird attractors. Mature angophoras can develop hollows that are readily occupied by a range of birds and mammals. The richly patterned trunks of peeling bark are a distinctive feature of these trees. The reddish to pink tones distinguish the species from the similar Spotted Gums which have grey to white trunks. There are about 70-80 planted in an avenue from Weebar Rd to Pryor Rd. Try to spot the old eucalypts hiding amongst them.

Trees that shade roads can help to prolong the life of the asphalt surface



12. There is one old Mountain Grey Gum at the entrance to the Drouin Secondary College car park with a girth of 5.1 m.
13. At Colin St, turn left and left again into Wade St, then right into Rusrees Crt.
14. Walk down this court and look out for the walking link on the right, down through the small park to Janine Crt. Take time to look over the view of Drouin. Some days you can clearly see to the Yarra and Baw Baw Ranges.
15. Turn left into Cook St and keep walking until you find the path you started on. Turn right and walk back to the start.



Purple Swamphen



Australian Reed Warbler

## 9. Jack's Giant and Friends Walk

**A level walk along footpaths, grassy verges and tracks showcasing some significant remnant trees and bushland areas.**

**Distance: 4 km**

**Longer option: 4.4 km**

1. This walk starts at Hearn Park where there are toilets, a BBQ and a playground.
2. Start at the south end of the park along Princes Way. Take note of the six Kurrajong or Bottle Trees. Whilst native to Australia they are not native to Drouin and amazingly they have survived well since being planted in the 1950s -1960s. Walk north through the park.
3. There are some huge remnant Mountain Grey Gums in this park which have long been landmarks at the entrance to Drouin. The largest of these has a trunk girth of 7.2 m and is estimated to be about 250 years old. In Drouin's

past this park was the original football oval. Take note of the many bird hollows in this and in the nearby group of three Mountain Grey Gums. You may also see a nest or two high up in the canopy.

4. The memorial Variegated Tristania was planted in 1967 to remember William J Bloye, Buln Buln Shire Councillor and very keen naturalist. He was responsible for the saving and reopening of Glen Nayook. The original tree has been replaced.
5. Walk north along Hearn St footpath to where it crosses to the west side of Hearn St and stand under the 17 large Mountain Grey Gums on the median strip. They are a rare group to find in urban development and have a high habitat value.



6. Walk north along the footpath away from the park.
7. Take the time to appreciate the tall Mountain Grey Gums along the median strip of this service road. There are more of this species of remnant gum in Drouin than any other.
8. As you walk past the two caravan parks take note of the huge eucalypts still present. Most are Mountain Grey Gums with their distinctive fibrous rough grey bark at the bottom and smooth pale grey trunk above with whitish-yellowish creamy streaks.
9. Cross Wellwood Rd to the grass verge.
10. Walk left (west) down Wellwood Rd.
11. Four Blue Gums on this reserve land have prolific, highly perfumed white flowers in winter desired by nectar feeding birds. This is the only area in Drouin containing Blue Gums.
12. A little further down this area is a group of five Messmates together with one Blue Gum and further along is a group of six Mountain Grey Gums. Towards the end are two Peppermint Gums. Until 1972, when Wellwood Rd was put through, this area was all native bush and mixed remnant eucalypts.
13. Turn around and walk back to Princes Way.

14. Turn left and walk north along the service road where you will see very large trees in this area.
15. Outside 980 Princes Way is 'Jack's Giant', a Mountain Grey Gum with virtually four trunks coming from its base, although it is only one tree. Jack's Giant has a trunk girth of 8.9 m making it the second largest giant in Drouin's urban area. Named after Jack Wharton who farmed 66 acres here from 1948. This service road was once the old Princes Highway.
16. The Blue Gum at 966 Princes Way is a good example of the Blue Gums which were part of the eucalypt forest diversity at this end of Drouin. The large canopy along with the Spotted Gums and Peppermints planted nearby, provides excellent bird habitat.
17. Continue walking north along this service road.



*Jack's Giant*

18. At 960 Princes Way there is a group of *Eucalyptus radiata* or Narrow-leaved Peppermints. The bark on these trees is deeply fissured supporting many insects and spiders that attract numerous birds. Believed to be remnant trees adding to the rich diversity of this area.
19. Messmate and Mountain Grey Gum 'twins'. Both are very well occupied trees. Look for gum stains on the bark that might indicate Sugar Gliders use these trees (see page 7). Turn around here and walk back along the service road.
20. At Wellwood Rd, cross over and walk along Princes Way to Roberts Crt.
21. Cross over Roberts Crt and walk down the grassy verge on the left side of the road.
22. Ahead is Roberts Road Reserve. This remarkable piece of bushland forest has some remnant Mountain Grey Gum and Strzelecki Gum trees. It provides incredible habitat value and a buffer between industry and housing and a 'window' into what the early pioneers faced in settling in what was 'The Great Gippsland Forest'.
23. Turn left and follow the walking link under the avenue of tall Mountain Grey Gums: 30 trees about 25 m high some in excess of 4 m girth.

24. At the end of the trees is Oberon Pl. Look for the walking link on the left up into Palm Sq. (Alternatively for a longer return you can walk to end of Oberon Pl, turn right into Eucalypt Crt, left into Miller Ct, right in Rivendale Cres, left into Longwarry Rd and back to Hearn Park 4.4 km).

25. At the top of Palm Sq turn right and walk back to Hearn Park (4.0 km).



## 10. Gum Scrub Creek Urban Forest Walk

A variety of walking surfaces: concrete paths, gravel paths, shared roadway and grassy reserves, which can be wet in winter. Some parts can be rough and uneven. A few short uphill sections and one optional steep uphill section. This walk includes beautiful urban forest, wetlands and bush reserves. Choose an alternate route on a windy day.

**Distance:** 4.2 km

**Longer option:** 4.9 km

1. Start at the end of Princes Ave. Head east walking down the gravel path.
2. As the path levels out note the old tree on the left. Is it still here? This Strzelecki Gum with a trunk girth of 5.8 m has struggled after being poisoned.

The overgrown creek is Gum Scrub Creek which flows from the spring fed lake behind the Royal Hotel. It flows under the railway line, and then flows from here flows north to Drouin West.

3. Continue on the path which then joins into a shared road and then onto a concrete path.
4. Cross over at Calway St and turn left. Walk down Calway St to Elizabeth Cl.
5. The gums here are planted Narrow-leaved Peppermints *Eucalyptus nicholii*. They have deeply furrowed bark making ideal insect habitat for birds to feed on. Turn right into Elizabeth Cl and cross over the road at no. 1 to the park.



6. Walk through the park and look out for the rough overgrown path. You will come to a large Strzelecki Gum before the gully/ditch. Listen to the sounds around you. This area is usually alive with birds: King Parrots, Spotted Doves, Grey Fantails, Pied Currawongs, Little Ravens, Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Brown Thornbills, Willy Wagtails and Blue Wrens have all been observed here.
7. Turn right and follow the dirt path into the urban forest.
8. This unique patch of open forest has hundreds of tall slender trees, mainly Mountain Grey Gums and Messmates with many hollows in the taller trees. There is a rough path through this area. Take your time; enjoy the sounds and keep your eyes alert...you might even spot a fox!
9. As the path begins to head right, look north through the trees to the large Strzelecki Gum on the wetlands. This beautiful old giant is estimated to be close to 300 years old and is so full of hollows it is like a bird hotel!

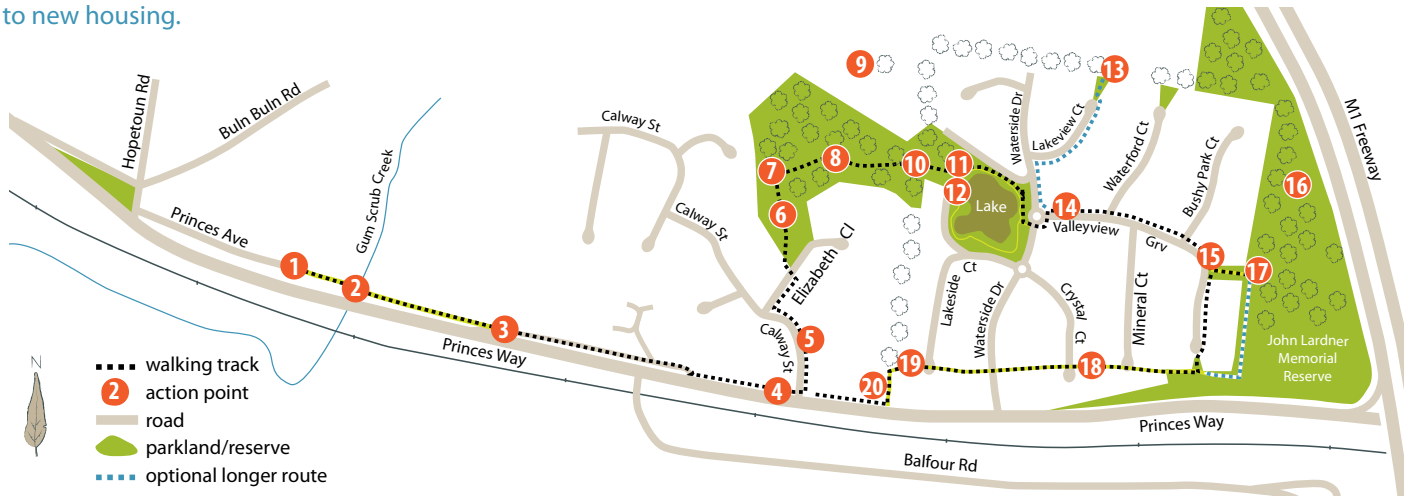


10. Continue along the path heading to the lake. Just before you get there stop to look to the right at the huge remnant row of trees behind the metal fence. A local couple have lovingly cared for these trees and planted garden beds around them. It is an extremely high value habitat area. Old maps show this as a gazetted but unused government road.
11. Stop at the lake area. The Shire has worked hard to plant wetlands grasses and the area is frequented by water birds. Turn around and look back where you have just come from. Many of the water birds use these remnant trees for roosting. Look up! White-faced Herons can often be seen nesting in the canopy in. Wetland areas need tall eucalypts for birds to roost and nest.



12. This area is a designated Giant Gippsland Earthworm habitat. Walk left around the lake.
13. For a spectacular view and slightly longer walk turn left at Waterside Dr, then turn right at Lakeview Crt, walk up to the end of the court and up the path to the top of the hill. Until a few years ago this old gazetted government road had many more remnant gums and was home to a pair of Little Eagles that had lived here for MANY years. Return back to Waterside Dr. This area is a good example of what developments should NOT do: chop tree roots, excavate under trees, build houses under trees. Many trees had to be removed because of poor planning and proximity to new housing.

14. Walk south down Waterside Dr and at the roundabout turn left into Valleyview Grv. Continue walking.
15. Just after the house at no. 8 turn left onto the path and walk to the end.
16. This 4.4 ha 'bush' area between the freeway and the housing development is known as the 'John Lardner Memorial Reserve'. John Lardner is credited with the original surveys of Drouin. Parts of the reserve include remnant bushland and parts have been planted.





*Brown Thornbill*



*Eastern Yellow Robin*



In 1982 school children assisted Buln Buln Shire workers to plant Angophoras, Spotted Gums, Mountain Ash and other natives.

Eastern Yellow Robins, which are bush birds, have been sighted in the reserve as well as White-browed Scrub Wrens, Grey Fantails, Blue Wrens, Striated Pardalotes and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. It is an area rich in bird life.

17. You may choose to walk through the reserve on the rough, uneven, grassy ground to the southern end. This short walk will take you to a concrete path heading west. Or you may choose to return to Valleyview Gr and walk the street path to the end of the grove which links with the concrete path heading west. Turn right.
18. Walk the full length of the concrete path as it crosses over roads to the west end. At various points stop to look at the view north to the mountain ranges.
19. At the west end stop at this point and look north along the row of remnant eucalypts, many which have been severely lopped.
20. Walk south uphill to Princes Way and walk west back to the start of the walk.

Trees improve  
health and well being



# 11. The Bill Kraft Giant Walk

A walk along footpaths, wide grassy verges and one formed earth track.

One steep uphill section at the start.

The walk highlights some remnant eucalypt giants and significant planted old trees.

**Distance: 5.4 km**

1. Start at the beginning of the Two Towns Trail in Civic Park. Walk along the path and turn left when you see the colourful mosaic 'serpent's head' on the ground. Walk up the yellow 'snake' or The Path of Achievement to honour Drouin's love of sport.
2. If you have time, walk over to the group of five Mountain Grey Gums on the far left behind McDonalds, or the old remnant giant Messmate on the right called 'Grandfather' overlooking the park.
3. At the top of the hill is the Drouin Football oval. Turn left and walk past the Drouin outdoor pool. The two larger Spotted Gums outside the pool entrance were planted in 1963 when the pool was opened.

4. Turn right at Grant St at another large Spotted Gum. This was planted by the Buln Buln Shire.
5. Grant St is well treed with Pinoaks, European Red Beeches, Tristanias, and Silky Oaks planted about 45 years ago. In spring the Silky Oaks are covered in golden orange 'bottlebrush' flowers which are highly valued by nectar loving native birds.
6. The corner house at 13 Albert Rd was owned by Cr. Alex Goudie from the 1930s. He was three times President of the Buln Buln Shire and an environmental advocate. The large Silky Oak was planted by him.
7. Turn right and walk down past a few houses before crossing the road.
8. Walk up the path heading north along Albert Rd.



*Group of Mountain Grey Gums, Civic Park*

9. At no. 23 stop and look across the road to the two Canary Island palms planted in the front yard. These were planted between WW1 and WW2.
10. Stop before you cross over Balmoral Ave. Look above you at the Messmate tree. Messmates have consistent bark all through their trunks unlike Mountain Grey Gums. Now look at the tree on the other side. This 30 m high remnant Mountain Grey Gum has ribbons of bark falling down. Note the staining in parts of the trunk indicating the likelihood of Sugar Gliders (page 7).
11. Up ahead is a very big tree. The 'Bill Kraft Giant' is a Mountain Grey Gum with a trunk girth of 7 m. It is a very old tree from pre-European settlement. Named after Bill Kraft who built 'Dhuringha' at 45 Albert Rd, as his home. He was office boy at 18, Secretary then Manager at 21 of the Drouin Butter Factory. He held this role for 49 years putting Drouin on the map for its high quality dairy production. The 'Bill Kraft Giant' is one of the trees in the background of this 1880s picture. Walk north to McNeilly Rd.



12. Cross to the north east corner of the roundabout.
13. This avenue of 160 Bhutan Cypresses was once the driveway to the McNeilly farmhouse. Planted in about 1957-59, they form a spectacular backdrop to the wetlands to the north west named after the pioneering McNeilly family who selected 320 acres in 1870.
14. Walk down between the Bhutans and at the end turn right to the concrete path. Then walk left along the path to Lyndhurst Sq. 'Lyndhurst' was the name given to the McNeilly property.
15. Walk south to McNeilly Rd and turn left.
16. Continue walking east along McNeilly Rd to Hopetoun Rd. Follow the path to cross over Hopetoun Rd.



17. Walk south down Hopetoun Rd. Continue past the entrance to the wetlands on your left. You are now on the Two Towns Trail which will return you to Civic Park.
18. This end of Civic Park has some natural springs which were once 'holding dams' for J.D. Grubb who owned the land. The wet area to the right known as 'froggy hollow' with Cumbungi and tree ferns, adjoins a Swamp Paperbark forest often frequented by Pied Currawongs. Listen for their 'hark-hark-a-lark' call.
19. The L.G. Boeyen Gardens are named after Leo Boeyen the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens for the Buln Buln Shire for 27 years. He was a man ahead of his time and his legacy of planting 6000 trees per year is what we enjoy today.
20. Continue along the trail back to the parking area.



*L. G. Boeyen Gardens as originally designed*



*Australian Wood Duck*



*Pied Currawong*

## 12. The Big Walk

This long walk is on the north perimeter of Drouin's residential areas. It was designed for a walking event held during the Ficifolia Festival for many years and known as 'The Big Walk'. A two car drop off would ideally work with one car left at the end point in Robin Hood Way and one at the start. There is one long uphill section. For those wanting a circular walk, one return route is suggested. This walk incorporates grassy verges, uneven formed paths and compressed gravel paths. In winter grass areas may be wet.

**Distance:** 5.5 km linear walk

**Distance:** 6.5 km for circuit return



*Bell Miner*

1. Start on the NW corner of Hopetoun and McNeilly Rds. McNeilly Rd is named after John McNeilly who is recognized as the first settler in Drouin in 1870 with 320 acres. Walk north away from Drouin, on the grassy verge on the left hand side of Hopetoun Rd.
2. At the top of the hill, stop and appreciate the incredible view. The mountains are part of the Bunyip State Park and Yarra Ranges National Park. Continue walking north.
3. Just before Settlers Rise, cross over the road and look at the huge Manna Gum hiding on the South East corner. This remnant giant is a pre-European, very wide spreading gum, with six trunks coming from the centre of the tree in outward arches. Its massive trunk is 2 m+ diameter, 6.75 m girth and estimated to be 250 years old. Can you see any ducks nesting in the 'platforms' up high in the tree? This the largest Manna Gum in Drouin.
4. Cross back over Hopetoun Rd and then continue north.
5. The four old oak trees, in a line across the property on the left, lined the driveway to the original farmhouse called Green Valley at the end of Hopetoun Rd. They are beautiful shade trees in summer. A tree canopy can drop the air temperature by 8°!

6. The eight trees on the opposite side of Hopetoun Rd are remnant Mountain Grey Gums. All but one is over 3 m in trunk girth and the tree at no. 182 is 5.2 m. They are high value habitat trees, and you might see Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Australian Ravens, Red Wattlebirds and Crimson Rosellas. Before the advent of the freeway this was Higgs Rd which used to continue north from the end of what is now Hopetoun Rd. Imagine the horses, carts and old cars which these trees have seen passing.

7. Continue north to the end of Hopetoun Rd to the big eucalypt. Listen for the Bell Birds (Bell Miners). This magnificent Mountain Grey Gum is 30 m high with a trunk girth of 6 m. Its bark is loaded with insects making this tree a very valued tree for native birds. One of the last families to farm here for many years were the Whittons.



8. Walk back to Green Valley Dr and turn right. Walk west along Green Valley Dr.
9. At the end of the road, look for a walking link on the right. This track can be rough, uneven and wet in winter. Walk along the track across Whiskey Creek to Surman Crt.
10. Head uphill to the next intersection. There is a seat for you to rest on this corner. While you do so, look up into the large gums in the property on the north side of the road. Can you see any ducks roosting?
11. Walk west along the grassy verge, under and between the large eucalypts along Waddell Rd.
12. The property at 49 Waddell Rd was named 'Oakdale' after the whispery oak trees you see at the entrance, planted about 90 years ago by Mervyn Theodore Pearson.



13. As you walk along Waddell Rd note how many of the large eucalypts have sap stains on their trunks and branches. Sugar gliders are prolific along this spectacular road corridor. They live in families in small tree hollows and live on sap, flowers and fruit. They make a soft 'yip, yip' noise and often emerge with the first starlight of the evening (p7).
14. At no. 34 Waddell Rd, there is now only the stump of what was a spectacular remnant Mountain Grey Gum giant. The base shows just how big this tree was.
15. Turn right into Lancelot Crt. (Alternatively you can continue all the way along Waddell Rd to Jacksons Dr where you turn left and walk to the McNeilly wetlands. At the wetlands take one of the walking paths across or around the wetlands. At the south east corner is Empire Ave. Continue south along this road then up the hill to the roundabout. Turn left and continue all the way back to your car.)



*Walking group under the spreading limbs of The Pepperell Oak.*

16. Walk to the end of Lancelot Crt. Between no. 6A and no. 7 is a walking link with a row of pine trees on the right. This grassy path can be very wet in winter. Walk along this path to Pepperell Dr.
17. Walk the length of Pepperell Dr. At the T- intersection at end of the road, turn left and look at the huge oak tree in the front yard of the private property here. When John and Elizabeth Esler purchased the land in 1913 this superb oak was already an established tree. It is one of the few heritage listed trees in Drouin.
18. Turn around and walk north past Pepperell Dr. On the left you will see a narrow path just after the Australia Post red mail box. Walk down this path to Main Neerim Rd. Look for the 'road ahead' sign.



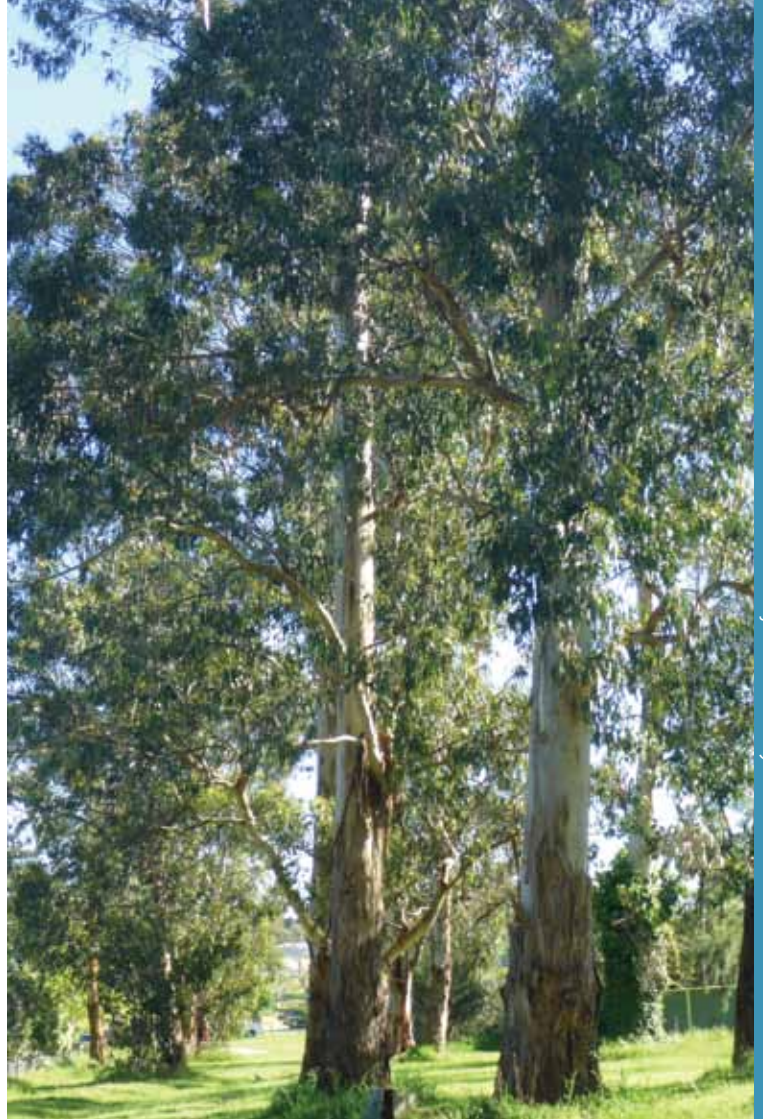
*Amberly Bushland Reserve*

19. Cross over this main road and look for the asphalt path heading down behind the left end of the barricade on the west side of Main Neerim Rd.
20. Follow this path which veers to the right and then turns left before you get to the crossing over the small creek.
21. Continue walking straight ahead (west). On your left you will see a swampland forest, known as Amberly Bushland Reserve with approximately 100 remnant Swamp Gums and Messmates. This is home to a significant number of birds. There may be nests in the canopies and hollows of these trees.
22. Continue west on the path through the parkland, past the playground to Nottingham Crt.
23. Turn right and walk up to the roundabout.
24. Turn left on to Robin Hood Way. The roads of this area take their name from the story of Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest. This locality was known as Robin Hood Estate which is the name of the old hotel built in 1877 further to the west.
25. This is the end of the walk. Collect your car.



# Drouin Tree Walks

- Short walks
- Medium Walks
- Longer walks



*Majestic Mountain Grey Gums: Jack's Giant and Friends Walk.*



Friends of Drouin's Trees is a group of people who care about the beautiful urban environment in Drouin.



The group has worked with the Baw Baw Shire to compile a Significant Tree Register in Baw Baw, with Drouin being the first town to identify its significant remnant and planted trees.

The group meets monthly and is involved in a number of projects aimed at engendering an appreciation of the remarkable tree cover in our town. This booklet is one of these projects. The group also has a regular blog on many topics, conducts working bees in reserves and parks in Drouin, is looking at erecting appropriate tree signage, doing bird monitoring and also promoting tree and environmental awareness through guided walks and schools projects.

Further information:  
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