

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Sir Joseph Banks witnessed Australia's iconic Gum trees when he and Daniel Solander went ashore at Botany Bay in April 1770, and collected their first Gum tree specimens. The trees were described by Captain Cook

"The largest trees are as large or larger than our oaks in England and grows a good deal like them and yields a reddish gum"

Over a decade later, French botanist Charles L'Heritier named the Genus *Eucalyptus* from a specimen collected by botanist and gardener David Nelson in Tasmania during Cook's third expedition.

The Genus name is derived from Greek.... *eu* meaning 'well' and *kalyptos* meaning 'covered' and referring to the covering of the flower bud with a cap.



The reddish gum or 'kino' commonly oozing from damaged trunks and branches inspired Cook to coin the common name Gum Tree.

THE WORLD'S MOST REMARKABLE TREE?

Around 50 million year old fossil evidence of Eucalypt pollen found in the Lake Eyre Basin relates a time long before Australia's Red Centre became dry; a time when the first Australian Gum trees grew in dense inland forests. Except for a handful of species originating in New Guinea and Timor, all of the approximately 700 species of gums, from the genera *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia*, *Syncarpia* and *Angophora* are endemic to Australia.

Eucalyptus phylogeny and history: A brief history. - A.C. Rozefelds, Tasmanian Herbarium



Aboriginal dreamtime stories speak of when the land was different, the landscape was green, the lakes were full and the clouds were thicka time when the sky was held up by Gum trees.



The Bjarne K Dahl Trust focuses on Eucalypts, an Australian icon and a significant aspect of Australia's natural environment and biodiversity.

The world's most remarkable tree interpretation signs were made possible by a generous grant from the Dahl Trust, with support from City of Gold Coast and Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.



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All content and photographs by Kate Heffernan and Alan Donaldson, unless stated otherwise.

FOREST OF DREAMS

Planted between 2008 and 2012 by volunteers, the Gum Tree Corridor Zone of the Mangroves to Mountains Transect is a symbol of the commitment of the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens and the community of the Gold Coast.

This is their "Forest of Dreams"

Walk through the Gum Tree Corridor, look into the shady canopies and take note of the different forms, leaf shapes and colours and bark types. You are looking at the world's most remarkable tree.



The Gum Tree Corridor was planned and planted with support from the City of Gold Coast.