

Spangled Drongo

(*Dicrurus bracteatus*) meaning forked, metallic.
These noisy birds have just returned after spending the winter months in the warm north and in New Guinea.

- ▶ They have glossy blue-black plumage, long forked tails, red eyes and black bills with bristles.
- ▶ They make a lot of strange metallic-sounding chattering noises some of them sounding like they've been made down inside a drain-pipe.
- ▶ They are extremely active, chasing after insects with great vigour and showing off their aerobic skills.
- ▶ They build a rather small flimsy looking nest high up in the outer branches of a tall tree.

It's good to have these enthusiastic, energetic fellows back again. It always means spring is here.

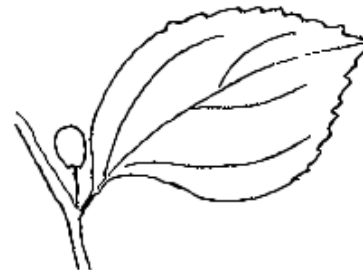


Spangled Drongo

Image from:

http://amonline.net.au/factsheets/spangled_drongo.htm

©Australian Museum



Chinese Elm leaf and fruit. Leaf has slight serration on the distal half.

WEED

Chinese Elm

(*Celtis sinensis*)

At Mount Nebo many of these trees have been removed over recent years due to the co-operation of landholders and the school. The eradication of smaller, recently germinated plants is continuing although it is difficult to find them all in the bushland. There are at least three large trees still growing within the town area and these are no doubt the source of these new invaders. The fruit of Chinese elms is attractive to some birds so the seeds are readily dispersed.

These trees are very invasive even more so than Camphor laurels. They can create a monoculture excluding all other vegetation to the detriment of our native bushland. It is a Declared noxious weed (Class 3) under State Legislation and is recognized as a dangerous threat to our environment.

If you have one of these trees on your property we can help you remove it and we'll also give you a replacement tree as a gift.

Description: Tall deciduous tree, light green leaves, grey bark, inconspicuous flowers. The fruit are numerous and small turning orange when ripe.

Editor: Bill Scattini

Publisher: MEPA

email: askmepa@yahoo.com.au

<http://www.gloriousnebo.org.au/mepanews>

PO Box 29 Mount Nebo. 4520. Australia.

WEED

Old Man's Beard

(*Tillandsia usneoides*)

Also known as Spanish Moss.

Infestations of this plant have again been found in Boombana and have been removed. It is often grown as a garden ornamental but living as we do so close to the natural bushland, we have to be careful our garden plants don't become pests.

Old Man's Beard is actually related to Pineapples but this bromeliad can infest large areas of forest after birds have used it for nest building. It can grow without soil and absorbs moisture from the air. The best way to get rid of it is by burning. It is a native of South America.

NATIVE

Daviesia arborea

(Davies was a Welsh botanist and arborea means tree-like)

This is a beautiful small tree flowering now along the road on either side of Mt Glorious. It has long drooping bright green leaves and perfumed yellow flowers. The bark makes a contrast to the surrounding bushland being dark with deep furrows. It can be mistaken for a wattle when not in flower. It would make a lovely garden plant.



Daviesia arborea

From:
<http://www.biolib.cz/en/taxonomie/id46364/?taxonid=461656>
©BIOLIB

WEED

Signal Grass & Green Guinea Grass

(*Urochloa decumbens*)
(*Panicum maximum*)

You may have noticed some patches of dead grass along the road side between The Gap and Mount Nebo. These are the result of a MEPA weed control program which has targeted the invasive Signal and Green Guinea grasses. They are most prolific around McAfees Lookout and Enoggera Fire Tower areas.



Distinctive seeding head of Signal Grass. The seeds form only on the lower side of the raceme.

President's Note

Dear Mountain Residents. MEPA (the Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious Environment Protection Association) has decided to produce this regular newsletter to keep you informed of our activities and to circulate information that may be of interest to Mountain residents on the local plants, birds, animals, pests and related matters. We live in a spectacular environment and while enjoying its delights we also need to ensure its health as best we can. This newsletter aims to provide information on these two sides of the one story. We hope you will enjoy it. (If you have questions or comments they can be sent to the address on the front page. We will do our best to respond.)

Dominic Hyde, President.