

Weinholt Street, Sherwood, Qld: 'Avenue of Honour'

The Weinholt Street *Avenue of Honour* is lined with the beautiful long lived tree species, ***Callistemon 'Dawson River'***. Typical of species selected for planting in many of the Avenues of Honour throughout Australia, this species is native to the local area (Qld) and has a weeping habit which is chosen to represent the tears of the mothers of fallen soldiers in World War II.

The *Avenue of Honour* in Weinholt Street is located in Sherwood, a western suburb of the City of Brisbane in Qld, is no exception. Running between Honour Avenue and Berry Street, there are a total of twelve (12) residential dwellings on the northern side of the street and eleven (11) residential dwellings on the southern side of this short tree lined street. The majority of dwellings were constructed prior to 1946 and they are predominantly typical of the Queenslander 'tin and timber' style in construction; three small lot 'tin and timber' dwellings, designed to compliment the existing heritage streetscape, were constructed sometime later (approx mid 1900's).

Prior to the introduction of universal sewerage connection for all throughout Brisbane, it was compulsory for the setback of houses to be at least 20 yards from the front boundary lines; a coincidental benefit of these local area planning laws, has been the protection this gave to trees located on street verges and it has allowed this memorial Avenue in particular, to flourish.

Originally pollarded on an annual basis by the local Council, sadly the location of these trees did not spare them the unfortunate previous practice of 'lopping' in latter years for powerline clearance. A current programme of ongoing restorative pruning carried out on behalf of power service provider, Energex, and replacement planting carried out by Brisbane City Council for a small number of trees lost in storms, has assisted greatly in the management of the Weinholt Street *Avenue of Honour* ensuring that it will be enjoyed not only by current residents, but by future generations to come.

The shade, habitat and dollar value that the Weinholt Street *Avenue of Honour* trees provide to all properties in this street, is reflected in the esteem that these trees are held in by all who live in and visit the street.

A short history of Weinholt Street

Weinholt Street is named in honour of Mr Arnold Wienholt (also spelt Weinholt), early pioneer and owner of several large rural land holdings. His properties extended from western Qld, to the district of Boonah and to his town house located at 24 Weinholt Street which, it is understood, gave him a place to reside whilst attending to his business interests and parliamentary duties in Brisbane. Dominated by an avenue of *Callistemon viminalis* var. 'Dawson River' (weeping bottle brush trees) historical records show that the existing street scape was planted at the end of World War II. These records are supported the verbal history handed down through generations of families who resided in Weinholt Street and it is a matter of record that the planting of these trees by all property owners in the street at the time was instigated and co-ordinated by the owner of the property located at 19 Weinholt Street, Mr Keefer.

Evidence to support the date of planting has been gathered from long term residents and property owners, as well as from information contained in local historical records and recorded in published books such as '*The Eccentric Mr Weinholt*' by Rosamond Siemon, author of *The Mayne Inheritance*.

By all accounts Mr Weinholt was a colourful gentleman; a land owner, parliamentarian, soldier and even spy which has led to some conjecture and even confusion about the origin or intent of the memorial aspect attributed to these trees. Mr Weinholt is described in the summation of the aforementioned book ...

Arnold Weinholt - MP, lion hunter and intelligence agent - was a larger-than-life hero whose eccentricities were legendary. He once hired a circus tent when campaigning for Parliament and offered to box all-comers in the ring. On his first hunting expedition to Africa he recklessly pursued a wounded lion and ended up scarred for life.

Schooled at Eton and on his family's vast holdings in Queensland, Weinholt fought for (the) Empire during the Boer War and was an early exponent of guerilla warfare. Decorated for bravery in the First World War, he died in mysterious circumstances spying behind the lines in northern Africa in 1940.

With the distance of time and absence of the original property owners, there are a few discrepancies in recollections of the history of the Avenue, however there is unanimous agreement that the trees were planted on all property frontages within Weinholt Street as a memorial to fallen soldiers who served in war and they now form a very well loved and recognised Memorial Avenue, almost closed in several points, along Weinholt Street. The fact that this species was only commercially available from the late 1940's further supports the timing of establishment of the Avenue as being in the years immediately following the end of WWII.

All additional contributions to the history gathered so far would be very warmly welcomed by the current street residents; most especially, any photos, recollections and details of serving family members for whom this Avenue represents a personal memorial. Contact can be made through the **Avenue of Honour** webpage or through the local Brisbane City Councillor, Nicole Johnston's Tennyson Ward Office. (Email: tennyson.ward@ecn.net.au,)



Brief Description of Tree species:

Callistemon 'Dawson River Weeper' / *Callistemon viminalis 'Dawson River Weeper'*

SYNONYMS: This cultivar is sometimes sold as *C. 'Dawson River'*.

Online references: <https://www.anbg.gov.au/acra/descriptions/acc238.html>
<http://anpsa.org.au/c-vim.html>



Family: Myrtaceae
Distribution: North-eastern New South Wales and eastern Queensland
Common Name: Weeping bottlebrush
Derivation of Name: **Callistemon...**from Greek kalos; beautiful and **stemon;** **stamens viminalis...**from Latin, viminalis, with long, flexible twigs
Conservation Status: Not considered to be at risk in the wild.

General Description:

Callistemon viminalis is probably the most widely cultivated of all bottlebrushes. The species and its cultivars are widely planted in Australia and overseas. A long lived plant that is hardy and adaptable to a range of conditions, this species grows in the poorest soils and often withstanding waterlogging and/or periods of dryness; it is ideally suited to planting as a street tree.

ORIGIN: The cultivar *Callistemon 'Dawson River Weeper'* is probably a form of *Callistemon viminalis*. It was originally collected in the Dawson River area of central Queensland by George Trapnell, now of Caloundra, Queensland. Received by ACRA 1 May 1984. Applicant: Tree and Shrub Growers of Victoria., PO Box 294, Mordialloc, VIC. 3195.

The weeping bottlebrush is typically a small tree with pendulous foliage although some forms are more pendulous than others. It reaches a height of about 10 metres in its natural habitat but is usually smaller in cultivation, particularly in temperate areas where it is an attractive and reliable small tree for street planting.

Leaves are narrow-lanceolate and up to 70mm long by 5mm wide. Leaves and young stems are covered with long, silky hairs and abundant oil dots are obvious under a lens. The red, bottlebrush flowers are about 90mm long by 50mm diameter and small leaves are often seen within the flower spike. Main flowering periods are spring and autumn but some flowers are found at most seasons in mild climates.

CULTIVATION: This cultivar has been in cultivation for many years and has proved to be a reliable, long flowering smaller growing tree of pleasing form. It grows best in mild to warm climates but will withstand moderate frosts without damage. Ample moisture is required to keep it in peak condition as prolonged dry periods may cause some defoliation. Birds, particularly the scarlet honeyeater and Lorieet are attracted to the flowers.

