

## *Elaeocarpus obovatus*

(Elaeocarpaceae)

- Common name:** Hard quandong.
- Localities:** Kholo Creek, Upper Brookfield and locally common elsewhere in our district.
- Growth form:** A medium or large ornamental tree to 40 m tall, the trunk often buttressed, and with a bushy crown.
- Foliage:** Leaves are simple and glossy, up to 12 cm long, 4.5 cm wide, and are shallowly toothed along the margins.
- Flowers and fruit:** Inflorescences are short, with small, white, fringed, bell-shaped flowers, produced in spring. These are followed by bright blue fruit about 1 cm long.
- Habitat:** Native to subtropical rainforest and dry rainforest.
- Propagation and Management:** Difficult to propagate, but either seed or cuttings can be successful. Hard quandong is a hardy tree which grows quickly and can tolerate a wide variety of soils, and also poor drainage and dry conditions.
- General:** Hard quandong is a suitable tree for windbreaks. The fruit is attractive to birds. Blue quandong (*E. grandis*) is a very fast growing timber tree which occurs in the Gold Creek catchment area. It has edible fruit, and Aborigines also made necklaces out of the seeds.

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