

Gold-dust Wattle*Acacia acinacea*

This is a widespread, hardy suckering shrub, usually about 50 cm tall. It is very common in the Bushlands often growing in large patches. The small leaves are

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almost round and the flowers are bright yellow. They form on short stalks singly or in pairs, and produce distinctive spiral seed pods after flowering.

**Spreading Wattle***Acacia genistifolia*

This is a widespread long-flowering open shrub with each narrow needle-shaped 'leaf' tough and spiky. The cream to pale yellow flower balls grow on a short stalk from the leaf base, either singly or in

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pairs. The seed pods are up to 10 cm long and are often gently curved with little constriction between seeds. It is the first of the local wattles to flower.



Ploughshare Wattle*Acacia gunnii*

This wattle is a small shrub with spiky grey-green distinctly 'ploughshare'-shaped hard leaves. The flowers are pale yellow balls growing singly on a short stalk from the leaf base. The seed pods are about 4 cm long and strongly constricted between the seeds.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M **J J A S** O N D**Hedge Wattle***Acacia paradoxa*

This shrub usually grows to a height of over 1 m and has globular bright yellow flowers that grow on short stalks from the leaf bases. A pair of sharp thorns also grows from each leaf base. The seed pods are almost straight, are up to 3 cm long and velvety. This shrub provides safe nesting sites for small birds such as wrens.

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Inland Wirilda

Acacia provincialis,
formerly known as *Acacia retinodes*

This is a dense, erect, very hardy large shrub which may grow to 4 m in height on a range of sites. The thin pointed leaves are bluish green, usually straight and smooth and angled upwards. The branches are reddish-brown, softer and often hanging when young. The small pale yellow flowers are in sprays and the seed pods are more or less straight and up to 16 cm long.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A **S** O N D**Golden Wattle**

Acacia pycnantha

This is a slender shrub, 2 to 3 m tall, with broad green leathery leaves. The bright golden flowers are clustered into dense sprays resulting in a spectacular show in late winter and early spring. The long seed pods are gently curved and not constricted between the seeds. Golden Wattle is Australia's floral emblem.

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Honey-pots*Acrotriche serrulata*

This is a slow-growing woody ground cover with dense small spiky narrow leaves. The white to pale green tubular flowers are hidden low down on the branches where they are pollinated by ants. They are nectar-rich and bird-

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attracting. When not in flower Honey-pots can be confused with Cranberry Heath (*Astroloma humifusum*) and Matted Bush-pea (*Pultenaea pedunculata*).

**Cranberry Heath***Astroloma humifusum*

This is a prostrate mat-forming hardy plant. It has distinctive easily recognisable red, tubular flowers. It is lower growing than Honey-pots and

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the small stiff sharp densely crowded blue-green leaves are wider. Green fleshy edible fruit follows flowering.



Daphne Heath*Brachyloma daphnoides*

This is an upright small to medium shrub with small white tubular flowers. The flower is like that of a Daphne with a similar sweet smell, hence the name. The leaves are almost circular, hairless, stiff, and arranged in dense clusters along small branches.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J **A** S O N D**Sweet Bursaria***Bursaria spinosa*

This is a woody shrub up to 2 m high with open clusters of white aromatic flowers that attract butterflies. The small leaves grow along the spiny stems and the seed pods are flat capsules that resemble an old-fashioned shepherd's purse. Bursarias are important fodder plants for the Eltham Copper Butterfly caterpillars and other invertebrates.

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Drooping Cassinia, Coffee Bush*Cassinia arcuata*

This is a bushy shrub which is widespread and abundant, being one of the first plants to colonise disturbed land. It has very small fine pale green leaves on drooping branches and a distinctive, easily recognisable smell. Small coffee-coloured flowers cluster densely on the ends of the branches.

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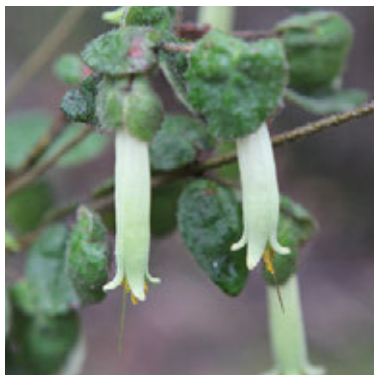
**Common Correa***Correa reflexa*

This is a small, open shrub with long hanging bell-shaped green flowers. These produce nectar, attracting birds such as honeyeaters, including the Eastern Spinebill. The long oval-shaped leaves are rough.



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Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea*Daviesia leptophylla*

This is a multi-stemmed plant which is open in form and has stems up to 1 m or more in length. The small dark yellow and maroon pea-shaped flowers form in clusters from the leaf bases. The long narrow, hairless leaves grow along the branches and have a bitter taste. The distinctive triangular seed pods are almost flat.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J **A** **S** **O** N D**Gorse Bitter-pea***Daviesia ulicifolia*

This erect prickly shrub is widespread. It grows up to 1 m tall with stiff, flat leaves tapering to a spiny tip. The small deep yellow pea flowers are dark red near the centre and are in shortly-stalked clusters growing from the leaf bases. The seed pods are flat and triangular.

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Grey Parrot-pea*Dillwynia cinerascens*

This is a broad open shrub to about 80 cm tall. Along the hairy stems, it has clusters of small, very narrow grey-green leaves which are curved back at the tips. The vividly coloured orange and red pea flowers are crowded into heads at the branch tips.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A **S** **O** **N** D**Showy Parrot-pea***Dillwynia sericea*

This is the most common local Parrot-pea. It is an open rounded bush with downy stems and orange and red pea flowers crowded among the leaves on the upper part of the stem. The leaves

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are more or less straight, usually slightly warty, and about 1 cm long. The edges are rolled tightly upwards making a groove on the upper surface.



Sticky Hop-bush*Dodonaea viscosa*

This is a medium to tall shrub which grows on rocky outcrops or along rocky creek beds. It has small brown-green flowers and narrow glossy leaves about 5 cm long. The attractive and distinctive red-brown seed capsules have conspicuous papery wings.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A **S** O N D**Common Wedge-pea***Gompholobium huegelii*

This is a small, open, erect shrub with single bright yellow large pea flowers on the ends of the stems. The backs of the petals are a dull, darkish yellow-green. The dark green leaves are divided into three very narrow leaflets which have the edges rolled under.

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Downy Grevillea, Cat's-claw Grevillea *Grevillea alpina*

This shrub grows to about 1 m tall on stony ground in open bush. The green leaves are short and stiff and the stems, leaves and flowers are densely hairy. The curved, tubular flowers are red and white

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or apricot and white, and have the typical grevillea 'spider-flower' shape.



Bushy Needlewood *Hakea decurrens*

This tall, narrow prickly shrub has stiff needle-like leaves and is sometimes confused with Spreading Wattle (*Acacia genistifolia*) when not in flower. The clusters of white to pink spider flowers are highly fragrant. The woody seed pods are walnut-sized, dark brown or grey with

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pale warty spots. They can remain on the shrub for many years, and are often useful in correctly identifying the plant.



Guinea Flower

Hibbertia spp.

The yellow flowers of these shrubs have five slightly overlapping petals. Narrow leaves alternate along the stems. There are two local species: Spiky Guinea-



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flower (*Hibbertia exutiacies*) is more or less prostrate with flowers the size of a 5 cent coin; Erect Guinea-flower (*H. riparia*) is taller with larger flowers.



Common Hovea

Hovea heterophylla

This is a small shrub, often comprising only a few short upright woody stems averaging 20 cm in length. This plant is common in the Bushlands. The pale purple pea flowers have a small yellow blotch at the centre and alternate on the stem, growing from the leaf bases. The leaves are long and narrow.

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Austral Indigo*Indigofera australis*

A member of the Pea family, this is a tall open shrub with sprays of pale purple to pink flowers. The foliage is feathery with small green leaflets openly placed in opposite pairs on flexible stems. After the short spikes of purple flowers have finished, they are replaced by shiny green pods which turn brown and split on ripening.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J A **S** **O** N D**Common Beard-heath***Leucopogon virgatus*

This is a low neat multi-stemmed shrub with narrow, hairless, stiff leaves. The tiny white flowers are densely clustered together and cover the plant. Each flower comprises five petals the insides of which are furry, making them look fringed or bearded. The ripe berries can be eaten.

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Urn Heath*Melichrus urceolatus*

This is a low spreading shrub to about 50 cm tall with small, stiff prickly leaves that taper to a sharp, hard point. The cream tubular flowers have five triangular petals and are surrounded at the base by pink bracts. They grow from the leaf bases, are distinctly urn-shaped, and are clustered along small branches.

IN FLOWERJ F M A M J J **A** S O N D**Grey Everlasting***Ozothamnus obcordatus*

This plant is common and widespread in the Bushlands. It grows to 1 m tall, with erect woody stems. The small oval leaves are glossy green on top and pale grey underneath due to a covering of cottony hairs. The numerous small yellow button flower heads which cluster at the top of the branches turn grey as they mature.

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Fairy Wax-flower

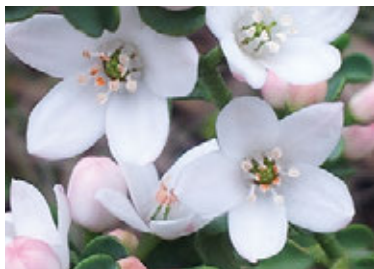
Philotheca verrucosa, formerly known as *Eriostemon verrucosus*

This shrub is 30 cm to 1 m tall. It is small and rounded, sprawling or upright and widespreading and common. The aromatic leaves are thick and curved upwards.

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The stems are warty, as are the leaves, making them rough to touch. The white star-shaped flowers open from pink buds and have five waxy petals.

**Rice Flower**

Pimelea spp.

These small shrubs grow to 30 cm, many woody stems springing erectly from the base of the plant. The leaves are pale green and soft. The white tubular flowers grow in clusters at the branch tips. There are two local species. Just below the flowers, the Common Rice-flower or Dwarf Rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*) has stalks with silky hairs, while the Slender Rice-flower (*P. linifolia*) has smooth, hairless stalks.

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Prostrate Flat-pea, Hill Flat-pea
Platylobium montanum

This slender more or less trailing plant has large heart-shaped leaves with a sharp point at the end and a network of surface veins. The yellow pea flowers are on slender stalks and have small red markings in the centre. They are spaced out along the stems.

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Matted Bush-pea
Pultenaea pedunculata

This is a prostrate shrub which forms a dense mat. The small narrow leaves taper to a sharp point and grow thickly along the hairy small branches. The pea flowers are yellow with red centres and are on slender stalks rising from the leaf bases.

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White Marianth*Rhytidosporum procumbens*

This is a small, prostrate shrub about 30 cm tall. The small leaves taper to a sharp point and are crowded along the

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branches. The many small white flowers appear among the upper leaves.

**Pink Bells***Tetratheca ciliata*

This is a common and showy small spreading shrub in the Bushlands. It has multiple slender hairy erect stems with small circular leaves commonly in whorls of three along them. The perfumed pink flowers, which are either single or in groups of up to three, have four petals and are attached by drooping hairy stalks at the base of the upper leaves.

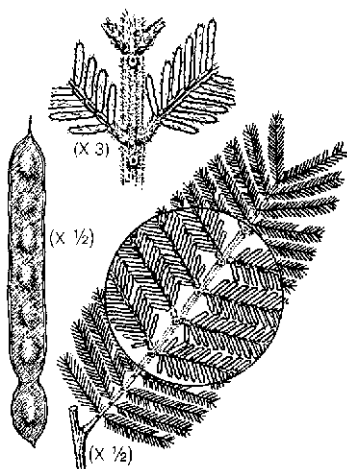
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Silver Wattle*Acacia dealbata*

This is a small to medium tree with 'feathery' blue-green leaves. The trunk often has silvery-grey patches. It spreads from seeds as well as suckering profusely. The perfumed, ball-shaped, bright yellow flowers grow in sprays at the end of branches and the seed pods are mainly straight. There are small glands regularly spaced along the central vein of the leaf. It can be confused with Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*).

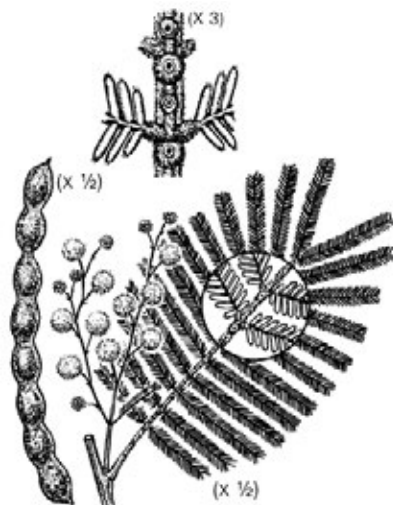
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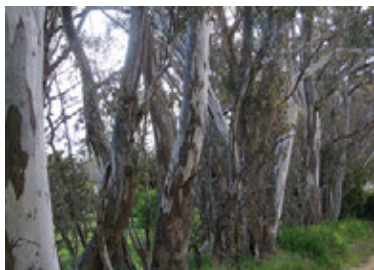
Black Wattle, Late Black-wattle*Acacia mearnsii*

This is a small to medium green tree with dark bark, often exuding gum. The leaves are feathery and the pale yellow sprays of flowers appear in early summer. The brown seed pods are strongly constricted between the seeds. The leaflets are longer than those of Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) and it does not spread by suckering. The small glands on the central vein of the leaf are irregularly spaced.

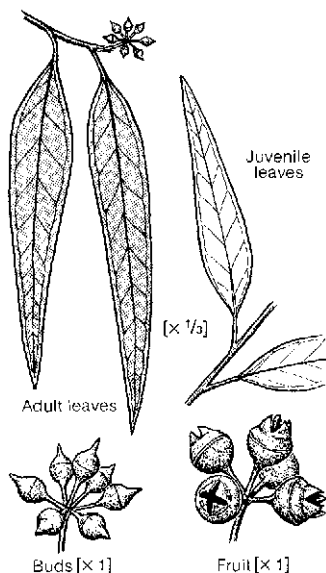
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River Red-gum*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

This is a large tree, often with twisting branches and a spreading crown, but those in the Bushlands have more of a tall upright growth habit. The cream flowers are often in clusters of seven. They grow along creeks and on low-lying areas where they are seasonally inundated. The fruit is round, dome-like with strong projecting valves. The smooth bark is patchy and dull pale grey to white. The leaves are dull grey-green and variable in length.

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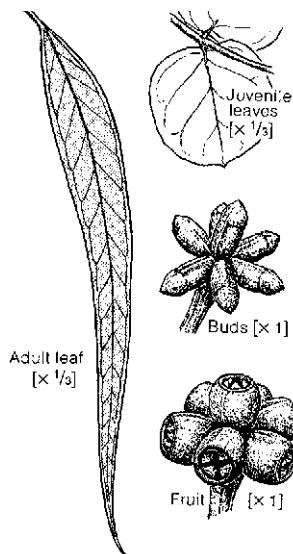
Eucalypts may not flower, and therefore seed, every year.

Long-leaved Box, Bundy*Eucalyptus gonicalyx*

This is a medium-sized tree with greyish, rough box bark. It is characteristically untidy with a short crooked trunk and large crown and is often wider than it is tall. The blue-green juvenile leaves are clearly round, paired and stalkless. The adult leaves are alternate, long, dark green and spear-shaped. Buds are usually in clusters of up to 7 and somewhat cylindrical. The fruit is cup-shaped with the valves slightly above the rim.

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Red Stringybark

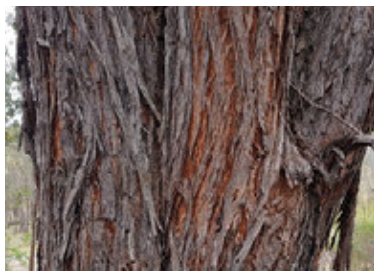
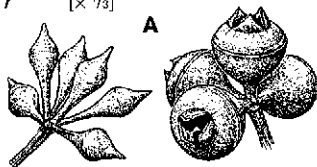
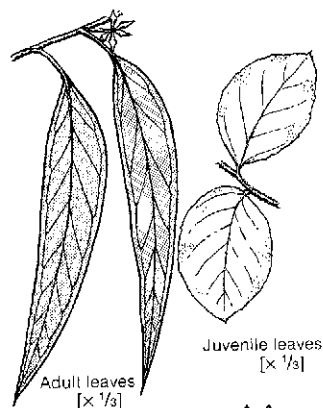
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha

This tree favours drier, well-drained hill sites and is the most common eucalypt on the skeletal soils of the Bushlands. It is a small to medium tree, with a sparse spreading crown. It is characterised by its vertically stringy and fibrous bark which is red-brown inside and grey outside, twisting around the trunk and extending to all of the branches. The juvenile leaves are rough and bristly and the adult leaves are thick and dark green. The buds are usually in clusters of 7 to 11 and the fruit is large with a broad domed top and projecting sharp valves.



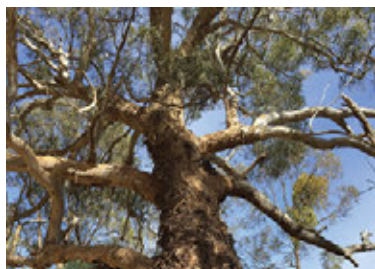
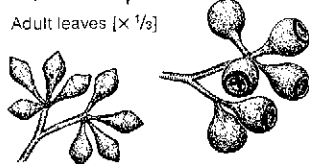
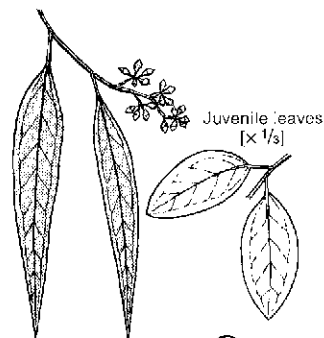
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Yellow Box*Eucalyptus melliodora*

This is a medium to tall broad-crowned, often stately tree preferring better quality soils on lower slopes. The bark is brown and rough from the base to varying heights on the trunk, while the upper trunk and limbs are smooth and pale. The juvenile leaves are small, almost oval and pale grey-green. The adult leaves are thin and generally smaller than those of other eucalypts. The small buds, in clusters of 3 to 7, grow from the leaf-base and have a short cap. The fruits are roundly wineglass-shaped with the valves recessed below the rim.

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Grey Box

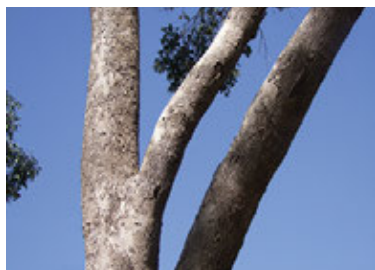
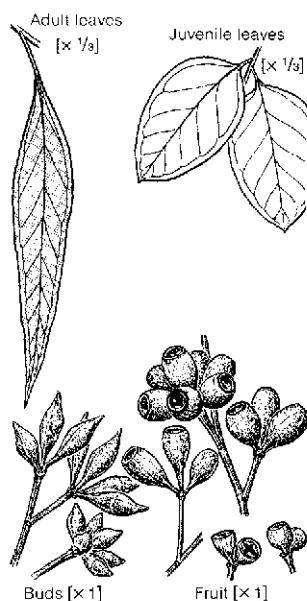
Eucalyptus microcarpa

This is a medium upright tree, often with the trunk typically dividing in a Y-shape. The bark is grey and rough on the trunk and large branches, smoother and pale grey-brown on the upper limbs. The juvenile leaves are larger and generally wider than adult leaves which are longer, tapered at both ends and usually rather thick and firm, green or grey-green. The buds are in clusters of 4 to 8 and are pointed at both ends. The fruits are generally cup-shaped with the valves opening below the rim.



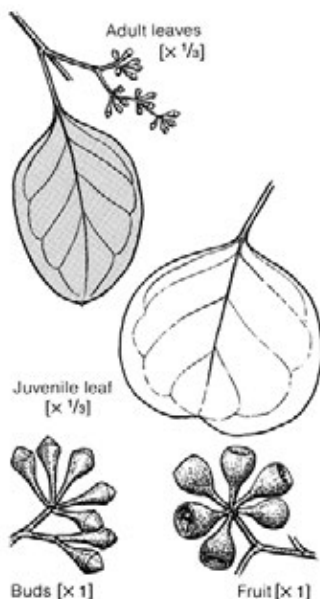
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Red Box*Eucalyptus polyanthemus*

This is a medium tree and a common companion of Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*). It has a rather dense crown of grey-green leaves. In the Bushlands the box-type bark is generally rough on the trunk and all branches except the smallest. The grey-green, stalked, juvenile leaves are round, often with a heart-shaped dint in the end. Adult leaves are not as round with long and slender leaf stalks. This is the only eucalypt with rounded adult leaves. The small buds are in clusters of 3 to 7 with short conical caps and the fruits are goblet-shaped with the valves below the rim.

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Candlebark

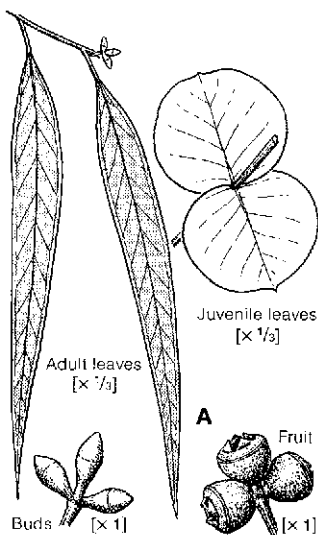
Eucalyptus rubida

This erect tall tree has a white smooth trunk except for the base where rough bark is present and strips of bark gather. They occur in damper areas and can be seen on Sparks Road near the Chewton Cemetery. The juvenile grey-blue leaves are opposite and round. Adult leaves are long, thin and dark green. Buds are in threes with conical caps. Fruit are in threes and have a cross formation with raised valves.



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Cherry Ballart*Exocarpos cupressiformis*

This is a small virtually leafless tree resembling a green-foliaged cypress. It grows in association with other trees, its roots attaching to nearby roots. The tiny, yellow flowers are about 1 mm wide and it has small stony fruit attached to

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the plant by a swollen stalk. This stalk becomes swollen and red as the fruit ripens, resembling a cherry, with the seed outside, hence *Exocarpos*.



Box Mistletoe*Amyema miquelii*

This is a local native plant that grows in hanging clumps on Red Stringybark and the boxes in the Bushlands. The sticky seeds are dispersed by birds, particularly the Mistletoebird, and germinate on contact with the tree branch, penetrating the vascular system of the tree. The mistletoe then obtains water and mineral nutrients from the host, usually living

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with it for many years. Mistletoe is very important for many native fauna, notably possums. It provides nesting sites for small birds and is a food source for butterflies and insects.



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Additional resources

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|---|--|
| Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club | castlemaineafc.wordpress.com |
| Connecting Country | connectingcountry.org.au |
| Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) | |
| Flora of Victoria | environment.vic.gov.au |
| Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests (FOBIF) | vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au |
| Mount Alexander Shire Council | fobif.org.au |
| Natural Newstead | mountalexander.vic.gov.au |
| North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) | geoffpark.wordpress.com |
| Trust for Nature | nccma.vic.gov.au |
| Vic Veg Online | trustfornature.org.au |
| | vicveg.net.au |

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