

National Eucalypt Day info kit for partners

Theme and Key Messages

Our Eucalypt Home: Unique. Irreplaceable. Treasured.

Think it's only humans that yearn to find their dream home? Ask a Koala, Swift Parrot or Murray Cod what they need to survive and you'll find that a gum tree fits the bill. Eucalypts support our Australian wildlife in a surprising number of irreplaceable, ingenious and often invisible ways. With little fanfare, these quiet achievers keep our unique animals, plants and fungi fed, watered, sheltered and safe. And with an abundance of threats to our eucalypts, it's up to us to protect these iconic trees and the irreplaceable role they play in Australia. After all, home is where the gum is!

Key messages

Eucalypts sustain life in ingenious, irreplaceable ways

Eucalypts support Australia's biodiversity through food, shelter, water, climate control and more—often in ways that are invisible but vital, shaped by millions of years of co-evolution.

Every species has a story—and a eucalypt

Some animals rely on a single eucalypt species, others on many. Some eucalypts provide widely, others work closely with a few. This complex web is what makes our ecosystems rich and resilient.

We need to treasure our silent champions—and not take them for granted.

Eucalypts do so much, often silently. Their value to biodiversity is immense, but easily overlooked. Understanding this helps us care more, and care better.

Our Eucalypt Home is under threat

Land clearing, inappropriate fire regimes, exotic diseases and canopy loss don't just reduce habitat. They sever connections, reduce diversity, and weaken the ecological fabric that eucalypts help weave.

We can all Help protect Our Eucalypt Home

Preserve established trees. Plant the right species. Protect corridors and landscape connectivity. Respect cultural knowledge. Support conservation. Every action helps safeguard the living networks built around our eucalypts.

About Eucalypt Australia and National Eucalypt Day

Eucalypt Australia is a charitable trust that awards grants to support the conservation, education, and research of eucalypts. We envisage a public inspired by and appreciative of eucalypts.

National Eucalypt Day, held annually on 23 March and now in its 13th year, aims to raise awareness of eucalypts and celebrate the important place they hold in the hearts and lives of Australians.

Each year in February and March, with the help of leading nature connection charity [Remember The Wild](#), we start a conversation about Australia's treasured gum trees. Gardens, museums, 'Friends' groups, councils and businesses across the country hold events to celebrate their local eucalypts.

To get everybody talking about eucalypts across Australia, we run an annual Eucalypt of the Year public vote. In 2026 the 9th Eucalypt of the Year will be biodiversity-themed.

Key dates and links

Saturday 1st November	Event EOIs and microgrant applications open
1st February	Event calendar launches
Monday 9th February	Eucalypt of the Year voting opens
Wednesday 11th February	Microgrant applications close
Monday 16th February	Successful microgrants announced
Monday 24rd February	Dahl Medal 2025 Announcement?
Monday 2nd March	Last day to submit events to calendar
Monday, 16th March	Eucalypt of the year voting closes
Monday, 23rd March	National Eucalypt Day, Eucalypt of the Year announced + theme for 2027 announced.
Weekend 21st-22nd March	Great weekend for hosting National Eucalypt Day events
Weekend 28th-29th March	Great weekend for hosting National Eucalypt Day events

Hashtags

Please use the following hashtags to advertise and celebrate eucalypts and National Eucalypt Day

- #NationalEucalyptDay2026
- #EucalyptoftheYear2026
- #LoveAGum
- #OurEucalyptHome

A note about hashtags: We use hashtags on social media to increase visibility for National Eucalypt Day, and to help us find and share National Eucalypt Day content from our audience. Instagram has ceased listing posts in chronological order, which makes it impossible to search for recent content. This means we can no longer find and share our community's recent posts using our usual (undated) #NationalEucalyptDay and #EucalyptoftheYear hashtags. This year, we ask our community to use the dated hashtags #NationalEucalyptDay2026 and #EucalyptoftheYear2026 hashtags to share photos and videos, and feel free to include #NationalEucalyptDay and #LoveAGum to join the ongoing community tradition.

Eucalypt of the Year: Our Eucalypt Home

Home is where the gum is, and every single eucalypt species plays an important role in the Australian environment.

We've chosen just ten contenders to represent the diversity of roles eucalypts play in Australian ecosystems — from nature's apartment complexes and supermarkets to water providers and landscape engineers. Some, like the River Red Gum and Forest Red Gum, share their wealth far and wide, while others, like the Mugga Ironbark, form unique evolutionary relationships with specific groups of animals.

This year, we're asking the Australian public to vote for the gum they think best supports Australian biodiversity. Alongside our gumtree contenders, we'll also be showcasing the wildlife that depend on them.

Welcome to the Eucalypt of the Year 2026: Our Eucalypt Home

Contenders

- Darwin Stringybark (*Eucalyptus tetradonta*), NT
- Mountain Ash/Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus regnans*), Vic, Tas
- Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), ACT, NSW
- River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) Vic, NSW, Qld, SA, NT, WA, ACT
- Manna Gum/ White Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Vic, Tas, NSW, SA
- Forest Red Gum/ Queensland Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Qld, NSW, Vic
- Mugga Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), Vic, NSW, ACT, QLD
- Kingscote Mallee (*Eucalyptus rugosa*), SA
- Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), WA
- Small-fruited Red-mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*), QLD, NSW

How can people vote for their favourite eucalypt?

Eucalypt of the Year voting will open on Monday the 9th of February 2026 and close on Monday the 16th of March. Eucalypt and wildlife lovers can vote for their favourite by heading to eucalyptaustralia.org.au.

The winning Eucalypt of the Year will be announced on the 23rd March, National Eucalypt Day. Scroll down for information on each of the ten contenders in Eucalypt of the Year 2026: Our Eucalypt Home.

About the Eucalypt of the Year contenders

Darwin Stringybark (*Eucalyptus tetradonta*), NT

The Darwin Stringybark is one of the dominant trees in Australia's tropical savanna, The straight trunks of this medium tree are favoured by termites, which hollow out the timber and return nutrients to the soil. The tree lives on, and threatened species like the Black-footed Tree Rat and Palm Cockatoo make their homes in the hollow. The straight tubes of termite-affected trees are perfect for making didgeridoos. An infusion of the bark can be used as a treatment for dysentery , while a mashed paste from the leaves can be used for headache and fever. The Darwin Stringybark is also a key nectar source for flying foxes, possums, tree rats, honeyeaters and parrots at a time of year when little other food is available. Threatened by gamba grass burns, land clearing and unsustainable commercial harvest for cheap didgeridoos.

Mountain Ash/Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus regnans*), Vic, Tas

The world's tallest flowering plant and beloved by Australian forest wildlife. Mountain Ash Forests are home to the majority of the world's population of tiny Fairy Possums (Leadbeater's Possum), which make their communal homes in its hollows. Massive Powerful Owls, Greater Gliders, Mountain Brushtails and Yellow-bellied Gliders find hollows to suit them too. Joining their friends in these epic apartment blocks, colonies of Spencer's Skinks have been spotted basking and hunting 50 metres above the ground!

Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), ACT, NSW

Long have ecologists and artists alike been fascinated by the intricate patterns wending their way back and forth across the Scribbly Gum's smooth, powdery bark. In the 1930s CSIRO scientists discovered the artist behind these works to be the larvae of the tiny Osmograptis moth. But it wasn't until 2012 that they worked out how the moth larvae created their written messages, by tunnelling just below the bark and feeding on the next year's growing wood.

River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) Vic, NSW, Qld, SA, NT, WA, ACT

Who doesn't this tree provide for?! From bringing water up from deep water tables and channeling it across desert landscapes, to providing leaves, nectar, pollen, sap and wood for hungry wildlife, and playing host to hollow-nesting species from tiny pardalotes, microbats and budgerigars to massive Powerful Owls, Lace Monitors and black cockatoos! In rivers, fallen

River Red Gums and living roots create sheltered zones for Murray Cod and Golden Perch to mate, spawn and ambush prey.

Manna Gum/ White Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Vic, Tas, NSW, SA

A wide-range of species use the Manna Gum's hollows for nesting, including the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote, which feeds almost exclusively within White Gum canopy. A sugary sap called 'manna' is produced by the bark in response to insect attack, and this is enjoyed by everyone from tiny pardalotes to humans! This manna can form up to 80% of the Forty-spotted Pardalote's nestlings' diet! Endemic to Tasmania, this tiny bird also eats invertebrates and sugary lerps on the leaves.

Forest Red Gum/ Queensland Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Qld, NSW, Vic

This is one of the most important food trees in Queensland and a primary food source for Koalas on the east coast of Australia. It produces masses of small, creamy flowers, which are attended by pollinators of all shapes and sizes, from tiny flies to honeyeaters and parrots by day, and moths, flying foxes and marsupials by night.

Mugga Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), Vic, NSW, ACT, QLD

The Mugga Ironbark forms an important component of the winter-flowering Box-Ironbark Forests of eastern Australia. These trees and forests are favoured by Critically-endangered Regent Honeyeaters and Critically Endangered Swift Parrots, the latter of which are a migratory species and depend on Box-Ironbark Forests while wintering on the mainland. Interestingly, the brush tongues of Swift Parrots and lorikeet species have coevolved with ironbark (and the closely-related Yellow Gum) flowers to get early access to nectar and spread pollen over wide distances during their nomadic foraging flights.

Kingscote Mallee (*Eucalyptus rugosa*), SA

This unassuming mallee eucalypt is emblematic of the many abundantly flowering southern and southeastern mallee eucalypts, whose predominantly white flowers reflect a generalist pollination strategy, attracting a wide variety of vertebrate and invertebrate predators. The nectar and pollen of the Kingscote Mallee have been shown to be favoured by the tiny Western Pygmy Possum over other eucalypts, plants and insects in Innes NP SA, perhaps due to differing sugar ratios between the nectar of this and other species.

Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), WA

The white-flowering Marri is a keystone species in southwest Western Australia, where it provides pollen and nectar native bees and other wildlife at a time when few other species are flowering. The fruit (gumnuts) and seeds of this species are staples in the diet of the Critically Endangered Baudin's Cockatoo, the Endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo, the Vulnerable Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Red-capped Parrot. Older Marri Gum's bear wide and deep hollows for these large species to nest in.

Small-fruited Red-mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*), QLD, NSW

The Small-fruited Red-mahogany is the favoured food of the Endangered Northern Yellow-bellied Glider, a large gliding possum. The gliders chew holes in the tree's bark and feed on the free-flowing sap that flows out to try and block the wound. This makes the sap available to other bird and mammal species, including the Little Red Flying-fox and Spectacled Flying-fox, Broad-toed Feathertailed Glider, Common Brushtail Possum, Striped Possum and Krefft's Glider.

General key messages

What is a eucalypt?

Eucalypt is a term that includes the three closely-related genera *Angophora*, *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus*, all recognisable as 'gum trees'. Well-known *Angophoras* include the Sydney Red Gum, *Angophora costata* and the Rough-barked Apple, *Angophora floribunda*. Well-known *Corymbias* include the Lemon-scented Gum, *Corymbia citriodora* and the Ghost Gum, *Corymbia aparrerinja*. Well known *Eucalyptus* species include the widespread River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and the massive Mountain Ash, *Eucalyptus regnans*.

Myths about eucalypts abound, but are they always true? Eucalypt Australia asked eucalyptologist Dr Dean Nicolle to do some myth-busting...

<https://www.rememberthewild.org.au/eucalypt-mythbusting-a-comprehensive-guide/>

Eucalypts for all spaces/euc diversity

With around 840 species across almost every environment in Australia, there is a eucalypt for every space and climate. Ornamental mallees and dwarf flowering cultivars make showstopping additions to small, urban gardens. Some small mallees can even be maintained in pots! There are eucalypts for shade, screening, habitat planting and for koala food. There are species that can be underplanted, and others that provide dense shade. More information on the breadth and diversity of eucalypts can be found through your local native nursery, the [Australian Native Plants Society](#) and through expert publications such as [Dr Dean Nicolle's](#) body of works.

Eucalypt habitats

From the harsh red centre to the wind-ravaged alps and the extreme climate of the tropical savanna, eucalypts have come to dominate almost all Australian landscapes. Where the climate is fair and the soil nutrient-rich, they grow tall, dense and straight, as forests. Against salt-laden coastal winds, they grow low, tough-leaved and gnarled, hunkered down around dunes. The eucalypts of the high plains adopt a similar strategy, with the smallest eucalypt species in the world nothing more than a creeping bush. On drier lands with reliable rainfall, eucalypt woodlands hold magnificent trees beloved by Australia's pollinators. In the wet/dry climate of the tropical savanna woodlands, some eucalypt species even drop their leaves for the dry season.

Across Australia, eucalypt habitats provide a home for the plants and animals that make up OUR homes and are the backdrop to the many local cultures across the continent. Locals have

special connections to these places, and tourists come from across the world to experience them.

Why do we need a National Eucalypt Day/Why do we need to choose a favourite eucalypt?

As a whole, Australia does cherish the eucalypt, but there are numerous misconceptions about eucalypt diversity, safety, importance in our environment and appropriateness as trees in gardens, streets and parks. Celebrating eucalypts publicly in all their forms and uses and actively debunking eucalypt myths helps engage the community in the eucalypts' ecological, cultural and horticultural value as well as the ways this diverse group of trees and shrubs contributes to a healthy climate.

Despite the group's ubiquity across the continent, many eucalypt species are restricted to very small ranges, which are greatly threatened by habitat clearing and the climate crisis (shifting temperature, fire and rainfall patterns). This is because of the immense diversity of the group. Over millions of years, they have adapted to widely varying Australian conditions, leading to the evolution of more than 840 species! We aim to raise awareness of lesser-known eucalypts on National Eucalypt Day and encourage conversations about eucalypts across Australia. The Eucalypt of the Year competition does this by highlighting the many different species that are loved by different communities across Australia and introducing people to species other than their local species or the most famous.