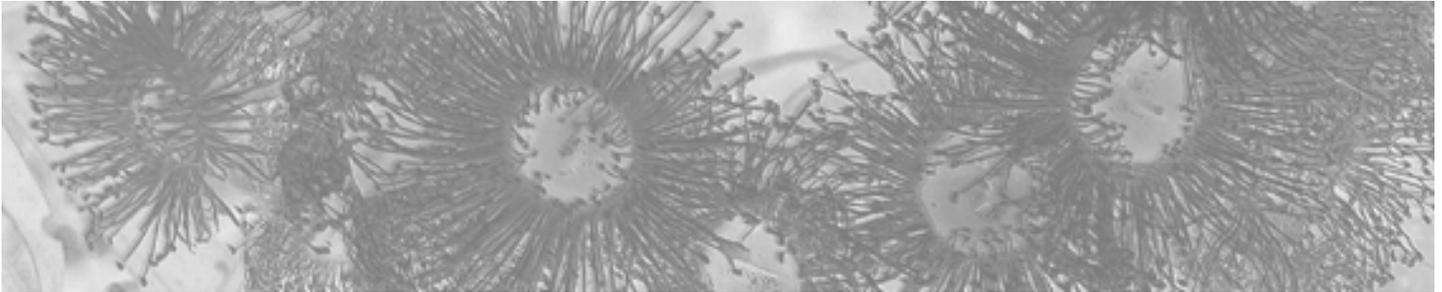


August 2005 No. 41



Eucalyptus Study Group

Study Group leader: Margaret Moir, RMB 261a Margaret River WA 6285.

Ph 0897 574 569 olivehill@wn.com.au

Treasurer and seedbank: **please post subs to:**

Elspeth Jacobs, 377 Cambridge Rd, Montrose Vic 3765 gdeajacobs@primus.com.au

Study Group website: <http://members.westnet.com.au/olivehill/esg>

Greetings to everyone, and welcome to another study group financial year. The annual subscription is now due, a list of current financial members appears at the end of the newsletter. If your name doesn't appear, your subs are due, please send cheques to Elspeth at the above address as promptly as you can, compiling and banking subs is a large task, made easier if the banking can be accomplished in an orderly way. Subscriptions remain the same as last year, \$10 for black and white hard copy, \$20 overseas members, \$5 for full colour PDF, national or overseas.

Please seriously consider the benefits of taking out email only membership, this is a huge saving in time and resources for me, provides a full colour product, as well as money saving for yourself. I have over 60 newsletters to print, address and mail, quite an onerous task. As of this year, all newsletters will be emailed to all the State associations, so all subs received from them so far will be valid for two years. I feel this is appropriate in this day and age, when even many business accounts are emailed rather than posted, and digital copies can be archived easily on disk.

Current membership: 53 personal members, 16 ASGAP group memberships.

News from members:

From Elspeth Jacobs

I am suddenly motivated to put down some responses to the last newsletter. There was so much of interest in it.

1. to Lorraine Haig

I was wondering if she would be able to provide any seed of *E. vernicosa* for the seed bank as it is very hard to come by. It is of great interest because of its small size, and unique appearance

I also wanted to congratulate Lorraine on the species she has growing. I find many of those difficult in Melb, which should not be as difficult as Tas.

I would also like to comment on Lorraine's growing Eucs in pots. I found that many of the more difficult Eucs would not survive when put out in the ground. I felt that their root system was not developed enough, but planted them out to stop root curl. However, I now put them into "rocket pots".

These are the sort of pots used by advanced tree growers. They have bumps all over them, and the tips of these have been removed so that any root that reaches the 'hole' will be air pruned, stop growing, and the root will divide further back. The ones I use are about 25 cm tall. This results in a better developed root ball. Any special Eucs that I want to plant in the garden I put into these pots first until they are stronger. While they are in a "rocket pot" a specimen can be placed in a decorative pot with the top of the inner container disguised with matting and mulch etc.

The pots are available from TRENTCOM APS PTY LTD , PO Box 44, 95c Beaumont Rd., BERWICK, VIC 3806
Ph (03) 9796 1422 Mob 0419 323 050

The pots are approx \$6 each, but can be used over and over again.

Keeping Eucs in pots also means that they can be moved around according to the climate. I have been having a few "bonsai" lessons to help with this process of containerisation. These lessons have been given by Glenn Robbins who is a new ESG member, and is writing a book on the containerisation or miniaturisation of eucalypts. Almost no-one else in the bonsai world is doing eucalypts, but for 20 years (I think!) Glenn has been working on this and now has several hundred specimens under his care.

2. to Brenda Galey

I wonder if Brenda could provide seed of the *E stellulata* form that she wrote about.

I have also been looking closely at the angles of the leading branch to the trunk of different trees. That was a very interesting comment. I agree with her observation as I have a *E leucoxyton* firmly rooted in the ground at an angle of approx 38 deg. The top lower branches are dying, and new shoots coming up vertically.

3. to Stephen Harries

I agree entirely that we MUST be more than gardeners with blinkers on. If not, we are in danger of losing many of our wonderful plants.

4. I have been playing around with Eucs from cuttings for years without any success until now. Twelve months ago I took a lignotuber cutting from a young *E.platydisca*. I used a budding knife, and cut into the lignotuber so that there was a 'heel' on the base of the cutting. It did not need further trimming as I chose one that was small enough. Now after 12 months, it has produced roots!! I will keep trying with other species.

5. I noticed while looking through the revised ed. of Brooker & Kleinig vol 3 that *E maculata* no longer exists, but is now *E.citriodora ssp variegata*. Lemon-scented gum is now *E.citriodora ssp citriodora*

I think that is now Corymbia, rather than Eucalyptus?

6. I would love to know more about the biology of Eucs. eg why do so many lose their lower leaves and become leggy?

Would anybody care to provide some information for us all on this?

7. I look forward to meeting members of ESG who are going to Perth in spring.

Thank you for that Elspeth. I'm especially grateful to be provided updated information on taxonomic changes to the genus, etc. I too will be at the conference and hope to meet members and others.

From Brenda Galey, Alexandria, Victoria.

Just to give you an idea of what my Euc world is up to at the moment.

At work we are planning on putting permanent forest health plots in to monitor the recovery of the forest after the 2003 alpine fires and working on some infra red imagery on the Murray red gum dieback. I will try very hard to keep our group informed. We are also mapping private forest to complete the forest landscape across all tenures. It's never been done here in Vic and it is necessary to be able to look at the forest as a whole if there is disease outbreak or other disasters. Someone asked me recently when I was going to get my degree in magic as I and 2 other staff are the only ones doing all this work! So bear with me and hopefully I can squeeze something out. If nothing else I can help get photo's I have a new and spiffy Digi!

As an aside, all my bonsai eucs have survived the weird monsoon like weather. I have lost 3 other specimens *Banksia marginata*, *Melaleuca blairifolia* and *Callistemon* "Injune". This was a trial for my limits on the watering system while I was away and I've had to adjust a few things! I'm hoping they will recover as I still see a bit of green in the cambium and Aussie natives are true battlers!

My *E. torquata* has some kind of round lerpy, scaly gall thing and the ants seem to be farming them. I have given it a dose of white oil to see if it will help, if not I'll try pyrethrum and if nothing happens I'll let nature take it's course. My *E. forrestiana*, "Torwood", *leucoxyton* "Goolwa gem", *orbifolia* x *caesia*,

and caesia magna, and both the grafted ficifolias are surviving nicely. My two eucs in wine barrels are loving their homes. The grafted ficifolia "orange splendour" is covered in buds I can't wait to see it flower and *E rhodantha* is a happy little clam! "Summer beauty" is budding as well but it is in the ground. Man am I gonna have a forest in my backyard with all those trees in on a normal suburban block!

Thanks Bren. It would be great to have an update on your marvellous WA trip from this year!

Lorraine Haig, Tasmania, writes:

It is great to be involved with the group again. Yes I will send you photos of my Eucs when in flower, in fact I will start now. The attachment is of a small Euc in my garden. It was planted before we bought the house but was only about 20cm high. Nine years later it would only be 1.7mtrs high and this is the first year it has flowered. Some details are as follows: Smooth grey bark with orange patches, branchlets are also orange, bud caps yellow orange. Flowers white, flowers and fruit are sessile, peduncle is thick, in umbels of up to 7. Leaves narrow lanceolate 7cm long 1cm wide. It is flowering now. Hope you or one of the others members can help



I have no idea Lorraine. Can anybody help with any information on this beautiful small tree? It is very like a small Euc.(I haven't ID-ed it yet) that is prominent in the Fitzgerald River National Park, south coast WA.

Werner Kutsche from South Australia writes:

I have included a few photos of Eucalypts which are currently in flower at Ponde.

Can't remember whether I gave my location of my property but here it is anyway : about 4-5km south of Mannum, S.A. on the River Murray. The property is not on the river but on a south facing hill about 1 km from the river.

Soil pH is 8.7.

We are just about to go on a euc fest on the Anne Beadell Hwy. I will be taking lots of photos of hopefully some flowering eucs. Enjoy the photos.



E. lansdowneana



E. orbifolia



E. albopurpurea.

Following on from my email of last year re scents of flowers, I have a eucalypt which smells like lemon cheesecake (no, I have not had any happy juice !!). I think it is an *E. incrassata* possibly crossed with *torquata*. Flowers are white and prolific in number.

We are growing 2 tropical species from the top end. One is that environmental weed of Qld, *E. torrelliana* and the other is *E. ptychocarpa*. Since we have shifted the taps next to the *ptychocarpos*, the leaf size has increased from about 50mm x 10mm to 250mm x 50mm.

These plants are bagged during winter to protect the previous season's growth from frost. One of these plants is ca 10 years old. The *E. torrelliana* plants are left to their own devices re water and frost protection. They are not thriving but surviving all the same.

Thank you Werner, and the flowers are beautiful. Some notes follow at the end of the newsletter on the Eucalypts above.

From Leigh Murray, NSW:

1. Thanks for the newsletter by email. I'll be happy to receive it by email in future. (and print it out myself). (*thanks Leigh!*)
2. I loved the stuff you wrote on your local eucalypts (especially the *C. calophylla* - I'm trying to grow some *rosea* here). The text and pix were excellent. I'll try to write something about our local eucs (but it'll be less technical, by necessity) when I get a chance.
3. I was really interested in your bit about *E. caesia*, particularly that you find *ssp. caesia* easier to grow. I've got quite a few *ssp. magna* at Tuross (some doing nicely, some establishing more slowly), and a few at Queanbeyan (struggling). I'd already had the idea of possibly trying some *ssp. caesia* -

and now, after reading what you wrote, I'll definitely give them a go sometime in Queanbeyan - when the drought's over. Talking of drought, it is RAINING as I write. We've had over 20mm in the past day.

WONDERFUL.

4. And talking of *E. caesia*, how do you pronounce it? I've heard/heard of SEEZIA, KAYEESIA, KAYZIA, and KESSIA, and possibly a few others that don't spring to mind now. Which if any of these is correct? And what do the locals in WA call it? Please advise. It's a sore point because I adore the trees but don't know what to call them.

I believe it is "see-zee-a", Leigh, and I have also heard "seizure"!(see-sza), meaning "blue" in Latin.

Here is my small contribution...it's a few very non-technical comments about the eucs that are indigenous to our land in Queanbeyan. We love them. And so do the birds.

It's begun to RAIN here, the first for nearly a month. We're hoping it'll turn into a decent amount. The drought is still with us, and plants are struggling. (Leigh's article follows)

A Few Local Eucalypts

Leigh Murray

There are two main species of eucalypts, plus a few others, indigenous to our hilly few acres on a ridge overlooking Queanbeyan, near the Molonglo Gorge. Frosts are heavy on parts of our block but there are also areas that don't get frost. We have skeletal soil that is mostly composed of shale rock with little actual soil, and drainage is excellent. The soil is remarkably poor looking – it's a pasty yellow – and it always feels dry, even after rain. It amazes us that anything can grow here, yet the indigenous trees withstood the drought brilliantly although they didn't flower as well as usual and they dropped a lot of leaves.

Eucalyptus goniocalyx

By far our dominant eucalypt is what I think is *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*. I say I think because it might instead be the very closely related *Eucalyptus nortonii*. Unable to check with known specimens, I'm deducing that it is *E. goniocalyx* by its greenish buds and leaves rather than the markedly grey ones of *E. nortonii*. Also, *E. nortonii* is often described as a handsome, ornamental tree, and much as we dote on our trees, we don't think anyone could accuse them of being handsome. Ours generally have a poor form, with gawky trunks and branches. They're large trees, maybe 20 metres or more with a wide spread, greyish-green long narrow leaves, and thick flaky bark extending right out to the branches.

We have many of these wonderful eucalypts. The birds, who prefer good food to good looks, adore them. The 'mixed mob' of thornbills, pardalotes, fantails and wrens pops around in the canopy, and treecreepers probe the bark for insects. Choughs forage in the leaf litter, throwing beakfuls over their shoulders with gusto. Honeyeaters abound when the trees are flowering (white flowers, usually in late summer, for a month or more), and then the parrots move in to eat the seeds, which keep them busy for months. We had a rare treat last year when Gang-gang Cockatoos dropped in to dine on the seeds.

As a bonus, *E. goniocalyx* appears to be a host for the semi-parasitic *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, the Native Cherry. These bird magnets are root parasites, and at our place they almost always grow near a *Euc. goniocalyx*. This summer they were loaded with fruit for weeks, and the birds turned up in noisy droves to feast.

Eucalyptus polyanthemus

Eucalyptus polyanthemus is our other major eucalypt. There are fewer of these than the *E. goniocalyx*, and they often seem to occur in patches. They're one of the few plants that will grow near big groups of *Callitris endlicheri*, and these are often on the poorest and rockiest of our poor soils. Unlike the *E. goniocalyx*, our *E. polyanthemus* are definitely handsome trees with good shape, round greyish foliage and often stunningly beautiful trunks, some with wavy, striped markings. They have the common name of Red Box but sometimes the bark doesn't extend far up the trunk before peeling off, leaving a smooth trunk. *E. polyanthemus* is usually smaller than *E. goniocalyx*, growing most commonly here as a neat, erect, medium-sized tree, although there is the occasional large one. Its early-spring flowers are a dirty cream and very small; they aren't its strong point in the beauty stakes. There's a large group of *E.*

polyanthemos lining both sides of the end of our road, and one thing that really stands out is the variation between adjacent, cheek-by-jowl trees. One will have very grey, very round foliage, and the one next to it might have much greener, almost oval leaves. Some trees in this group have been chopped back and now grow as dense, 2 metre shrubs. One *E. polyanthemos* came up under our power line to the house, and by pole-pruning the top and sides I keep it well-shaped and a safe height.

Eucalyptus melliodora

We have a few naturally growing *Eucalyptus melliodora* on our land (and several planted by us). The toughest of the indigenous trees is one that chose to grow on the road verge, directly under the power lines. Workers from the old energy authority cut down/poisoned this tree several times. Their clear intention was to kill it. Yet it kept coming back. Each time there'd be no sign of life for months, and then there'd be a shoot from the stump and then another and another. On their last attempt they did a particularly thorough job on the *E. melliodora* and also, upsettingly, on a *E. cinerea* we'd planted inside our fenceline well below the power lines; we thought both trees were goners. Well, time passed – about a year, in fact. And then to our delight, both trees began to sprout. The *Euc. cinerea* has turned into a beautiful tree, which I pole-prune regularly to prevent anyone even thinking it might get too tall. And I finally cottoned on to the idea of maintaining the *E. melliodora* myself to keep it restricted to a safe height. I keep it trimmed to about a 3 metre x 4 metre four-trunked shrubby tree. It looks great. When allowed to grow naturally, *E. melliodora* forms a tall tree, well-shaped with yellowish box-type bark that persists all the way up the trunk, green leaves and small bright-white flowers in spring. It is renowned as an excellent honey tree but when our 'shrub' flowered this year the plentiful insects seemed to prefer other flowers; perhaps next time...

Eucalyptus rossii

We have two patches of *Eucalyptus rossii*, one of the scribbly gums. These are beautiful medium-sized trees with white trunks marked with insect scribbles, wrinkly armpits (ie, pressure ridges) where branches join the trunk, and long thin green leaves; its showy, creamy-white flowers attract birds in early summer. Both patches of trees are growing on bare, rocky slopes, one in quite a frosty spot.

Eucalyptus rubida

We have one far-flung *Eucalyptus rubida* and there are quite a few in the general area. The bigger trees (such as ours) are magnificent, with white trunks splotched with pink, a beautiful spreading shape, bark that sheds in long strips, green leaves and white flowers. Some of the neighbours' trees have a large amount of mistletoe growing in them, and these trees don't look healthy. My pruning fingers itch to remove some of that mistletoe. That's what I'd try if they were my trees – but, of course, the mistletoe may be nothing to do with the trees' poor health. (I've never seen Mistletoebirds – if I did see any of these red and navy eye-catchers, I bet I'd soon change my tune about removing mistletoe.) We've had mistletoe in some of the *E. goniocalyx* and *E. rossii* but never much in a single tree.

And also

We've got one big stringybark, *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, growing down near the bottom of our block, with several smaller ones nearby. But our block is so steep that these trees are seldom sighted except when I'm at my fittest for the uphill climb afterwards. Their thick bark may be good for hiding the insects that treecreepers seek, but the trees are too far down the hill for observation. Higher up the slope and in full view there is a pair of *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, a medium-sized tree with a short trunk, a spreading habit, thick bark, green leaves and white summer/autumn flowers.

We love our indigenous eucalypts. They provide the framework for our bush garden. They look 'right' and they attract much wildlife. They provide shade and shelter for many creatures. And by flowering in succession, they provide a steady supply of food for a wide variety of native birds, insects and possums.

Postscript

Just before sending this to the editor, I chanced upon an energy authority worker about to mark that *E. melliodora* for removal again. What a shock! I persuaded him to let me continue maintaining it. Now I'm fervently hoping there's no confusion when the contractors come to kill the roadside trees in early February, and that the tree is still alive when you read this.

Thank you Leigh, what a wonderful contribution. You've brought those trees to life for me, and for others.



Above, left and right, *E. gonicalyx* flowers and foliage.



Above left, *E. gonicalyx*



Above right, *E. melliodora*

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

***Eucalyptus albopurpurea*, Coffin Bay mallee** (from EUCLID)

A mallee endemic to South Australia, found only on the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsula and on Kangaroo Island, on coastal sands. It has partly rough-barked stems and glossy green adult leaves. Flowers vary in colour from white to pale pink and shades of mauve.

Within its natural range *E. albopurpurea* is unlikely to be confused with any other species because of its terminal inflorescences, often colourful flowers and broad juvenile leaves of coppice growth.

Formerly known under the name of *E. lansdowneana* subsp. *albopurpurea* but now considered to be not that closely related to *E. lansdowneana*, (a red-flowered box species from the Gawler Ranges). Buds and fruit of *E. lansdowneana* are slightly larger than those of *E. albopurpurea*. *E. lansdowneana* also has flowers with the outer stamens sterile (staminodes).

Eucalyptus albopurpurea belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Adnataria* (the boxes) because the buds have two opercula, ovules are in four rows, seeds are flattened-ovoid, cotyledons are reniform, and anthers are rigid on the staminal filaments. Within section *Adnataria*, *E. albopurpurea* is part of a subgroup, series *Buxeales* subseries *Continentes*, further distinguished by having buds that retain the outer operculum until flowering time when both opercula are shed together

***Eucalyptus orbifolia*, round or disk leaf mallee** (from /plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)

Tree or Mallee, WA.

Bark persistent to smaller branches, minorichie, red-brown, red-brown or red. Intermediate leaves disjunct early, broad lanceolate to ovate, straight, entire, dull grey green, petiolate. Adult leaves opposite or disjunct, suborbiculate, not falcate, rounded or retuse, basally tapered, dull, grey-green, thick, concolorous. Lateral veins obscure, acute or obtuse. Conflorescence simple, axillary; Umbellasters 7-flowered. Peduncles terete.

Flowers: Buds ovoid or globose, pruinose. Calyx calyptrate; shedding early. Calyptra hemispherical or conical, 2 times as long as hypanthium or 3 times as long as hypanthium, as wide as hypanthium; smooth. Hypanthium smooth. Flowers yellow.

Fruits: Fruits hemispherical or campanulate. Disc raised. Valves exerted. Chaff dimorphic, linear and cuboid.

***Eucalyptus lansdowneana*, crimson mallee box or Port Lincoln gum** (plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au)

Tree or Mallee. SA.

Bark persistent on lower trunk or persistent on full trunk, fibrous-flaky with whitish patches ("box"), grey or grey-brown, grey or grey-brown. Pith glands present; Bark glands present. Cotyledons obreniform (bilobed). Intermediate leaves disjunct early, lanceolate to ovate, straight, entire, dull grey green, petiolate. Adult leaves disjunct, lanceolate, not falcate, acute or obtuse or apiculate, basally tapered, glossy, green or grey-green, thick, concolorous; Petioles narrowly flattened or channelled. Lateral veins obscure, acute.

Inflorescences: Conflorescence compound, terminal or axillary; Umbellasters 7-flowered. Peduncles narrowly flattened or angular (to 3mm wide).

Flowers: Buds cylindrical or clavate or fusiform, not glaucous or pruinose. Calyx calyptrate; persisting to anthesis. Calyptra conical, 1 times as long as hypanthium, as wide as hypanthium; smooth. Hypanthium smooth. Flowers red.

Fruits: Fruits cylindrical or globose or hemispherical. Disc depressed. Valves enclosed. Chaff dimorphic, linear and cuboid.

2005-6 Financial Members: These members are current for the 2005-6 financial year. If your name is not on this list, your subs are due. (please let me know if you have paid your sub and your name is not on this list. All E&OE!)

APS Tamworth, APS Blue Mountains, ANPS Canberra, APS Maroondah, APS Tasmania, APS Victoria, R&S Backhouse, Clive Bott, Lindsay Daniels, S. Disney, Thais Eisen, APS South Australia, Sue Guymer, Steve Harries, Elspeth Jacobs, ANBG Library, Colleen Keena, Paul Kennedy, Rod Kent, Christina Leiblich, Brett McDonald, Julie Mudd, Leigh Murray, Neil Palframan, Allan Raine, Lynette Reilly, ASGAP, SGAP Qld, Margery Stutchbury,

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD JULY 1st 2004 to June 30th 2005**OPENING BALANCE \$0.00**

DEBITS Bank charges \$5.00
 Govt. charges 2.00
 Secretarial 329.59

TOTAL 337.09

CREDITS

Mem/ship 1212.64
 Interest 3.05

TOTAL 1215.69

CLOSING BALANCE \$878.60

**ASGAP Eucalyptus Study Group
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
 Financial Year 1/7/2005 - 30/6/2006
 [please print your details]**

Surname.....Given name.....

Address..... State.....

Tel.no.....Fax no.....Email.....

To which Society do you belong-SGAP.....ANPS....APS....WSWA? (Please specify).....

Annual Membership Fee: Within Australia, posted=\$10

Overseas, posted =\$20

email only [PDF] =\$5

Enclosed is a cheque/cash/money order for \$.....being my membership subscription for the 2005-6 financial year.

RENEWING MEMBER NEW MEMBER[please tick]

I give my permission for my address to be published in the newsletter YES/NO [please circle]

Please make payable to the ASGAP Eucalyptus Study Group, and forward with this form to :

**Elspeth Jacobs
 377 Cambridge Rd
 Montrose, Vic.**

Comments:.....