

Eucalyptus stricklandii

yellow-flowered blackbutt

Name: Named after Sir Gerald Strickland (1861–1940), an early 20th century Governor of WA, Tas and NSW.

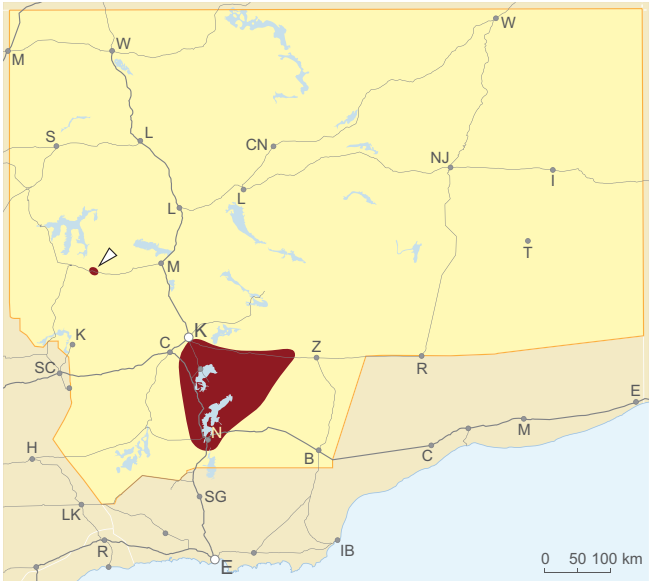
Also known as **goldfields yellow-flowering gum**, **Strickland’s blackbutt** and **Strickland’s gum**.

Authority: *Eucalyptus stricklandii* Maiden, J. Nat. Hist. Soc. Western Australia 3(2): 175 (1911). Type: Hampton Plains Estate, Coolgardie, WA, Dec 1900, *E.Lidgely s.n.* (lecto: NSW) fide Maiden (1912).

Key features: On breakaways, mesas and stony hills. Tree, lignotuber absent, fire-sensitive obligate seeder (a mallet). Bark often rough on lower trunk (a blackbutt), smooth above, seasonally colourful. Branchlets with white surface wax. Adult leaves coarse, shiny, green. Buds and fruits in groups of 7, held on short, stout, flattened group stalks. Mature buds stalkless, flared around middle. Flowers yellow. Fruits stalkless, coarse, bell-shaped.

Distribution & Habitat: **WA (endemic to the goldfields).** Mainly in the southern goldfields, from south and east of Coolgardie southwards to the Norseman area and eastwards towards the Fraser Range and to north-east of Coonana, with a disjunct occurrence east of Menzies on the Evanston-Menzies Road. It is restricted to greenstone hills, undulations, breakaways, and otherwise barren mesas, where it forms open woodland, often in pure stands. Associated eucalypts include *E. celastroides*, *E. griffithsii*, *E. jimberlanica*, *E. lesouefii*, *E. neoeremophila*, *E. ravida*, *E. salmonophloia* and *E. torquata*.

Notes: A distinctive species due to its habitat on stony hills and mesas, its often rough blackish basal bark, and seasonally colourful smooth bark above, its thick, shiny, dark green leaves, its large, conspicuous clusters of yellow flowers, and its stalkless, bell-shaped fruits. It has been commonly planted



subgenus *Symphomyrtus*
sect. *Glandulosae*, ser. *Stricklandianae*

as an ornamental tree in the drier parts of Australia, where it has proven to be bird-attracting, structurally very sound, and highly drought-tolerant.

Eucalyptus stricklandii is most closely related to the more northerly-distributed *E. carnei* (Carne’s blackbutt), which differs in its usually smaller, more branched habit, its smaller, duller, somewhat blue-green adult leaves, its creamy white flowers, and its smaller buds (9–13 mm long × 5–6 mm wide) and fruits (5–10 mm long × 6–9 mm wide). *Eucalyptus carnei* occurs around breakaways and on low stony hills from near Cue and Meekatharra eastwards to north-east of Cosmo Newbery and hills in the Lake Rason area, and southwards to the Kookynie area.

Conservation status: A key reserve is Coonana TR. As an obligate seeder (killed by intense fire and regenerating from seed only) it is highly threatened by increasing fire frequency, with plants taking a decade or two to develop a canopy-stored seed bank.

World:	<i>IUCN Red List:</i> Least Concern (2025).
National:	<i>EPBC Act 1999:</i> Not listed (2025).
State (WA):	<i>BC Act 2016/DBCA:</i> Not listed (2025).



Painting of seedling of unknown provenance



Description: **Tree**, 6–14 m tall, lignotuber absent, obligate seeder (mallet). **Bark** often rough on lower trunk (especially in southern populations), chunky, somewhat tessellated, dark grey; smooth above or completely smooth (especially in northern populations), decorticating in small strips often retained on the trunk as flakes, cream to deep red. **Branchlets** pruinose (especially in seedlings and saplings); pith glands present. **Cotyledons** bisected. **Juvenile leaves** opposite for 4–7 pairs then alternate, petiolate, ovate, thick, 100–150 mm long × 60–80 mm wide, dull, blue-green to green, non-pruinose. **Adult leaves** petiolate, lanceolate, thick, 90–195 mm long × 15–37 mm wide, glossy, green. **Inflorescences** axillary; umbels 7-flowered; peduncles flattened, pruinose, 10–28 mm long; pedicels absent or to 1 mm long. **Buds** sessile, smooth or with several faint longitudinal ribs on hypanthia, pruinose at bud base only, 20–25 mm long × 8–12 mm wide; opercula bluntly conical to hemispherical. **Flowers** yellow; in late spring and summer. **Fruits** sessile, campanulate, non-pruinose, smooth or with several faint longitudinal ribs, 5–10 mm long × 6–9 mm wide; disc descending; valves 3 (4), at or above rim level. **Seeds** brown to red-brown.