



EucMedia

December 2013

Hello there.

I've been wanting to say thank you for buying the 'Eucalypts of Western Australia's Wheatbelt' book for some time now, so thank you and thanks also for your many kind comments.

Welcome to [EucMedia](#), my take on sharing all things eucalypts.

Mass flowering of marri

First up goes back a while: The mass flowering of *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) was unescapable to notice last summer with many saying it was the most prolific flowering they had seen of the species. Whole crowns fully covered by bloom, creating a white mosaic blanket across the forests. Many pundits rate heavy seasonal flowerings of the species as an indication to a good season ahead; and so far... yes, looking good for grain crops & dams. Not sure about the pundits rationale, but we will take this season. Sue and Ted Astbury of Harrismith, whose farm contains a magic wheatbelt remnant with a small population of marri (one of the most easterly populations, with the tallest trees about nine metres), advised that the population flowered prolifically this year (2013), which is good news.



C. calophylla, Albany Highway, North Bannister area



C. calophylla



C. calophylla, NW of Harrismith

New population of *Eucalyptus latens* discovered

I received some images of specimens from Tony Rouphael that looked very interesting and if it was as suspected then this would mean a new distribution extension for the species, *E. latens* (secret mallee). Tony provided a GPS location and what a great find it was; an excellent clump in a great setting in the forest, south-west of York. Well done Tony.



Seedling research

In February I took a quick trip over to Blyth, just west of Clare in South Australia, to see and photograph all of the eucalypt seedlings raised from seed collected over the last year from across Australia (165 different species during 2011). Blyth is home to Ian Roberts, who kindly provided his paintings of many of the juvenile leaves for various species in the wheatbelt eucalypt book and also for Dean Nicolle's excellent new book, 'Native Eucalypts of South Australia'. Ian propagates all of Dean's seed collections each year at Blyth, for Dean's ongoing research in the eucalypts. From there, all seedlings are planted at Dean's now world famous eucalypt arboretum at Currency Creek, near Goolwa, south of Adelaide ([weblink](#)). If travelling to SA, a visit to Ian's gallery is a must ([weblink](#)).

Great Victoria Desert trip

Easter saw myself on a quick trip on the Anne Beadel Highway to Ilkurkla in the Great Victoria Desert near the S.A. border to photograph *E. alatissima*. I had the road to myself with good time for photographing our fantastic desert eucalypts.

Go to EucMedia at www.eucalyptsofwa.com.au to view a picture gallery from this trip.



Peron Peninsula mystery solved

In early April I had the chance to look for a plant of which I had earlier seen a specimen in the Western Australian State Herbarium and which I could not identify to species. All I had to go on was that the plant was collected in the 1980's, several kilometres along an old track SW of Cape Peron North on Peron Peninsula in the Shark Bay area. The specimen had no buds and fruits and only consisted of a twig with narrow, dull, blue-grey leaves. It had remained a mystery with me for a few years. This had to be resolved, so in 40 degree heat on arrival at Cape Peron North, a 3 km coast walk and bingo, there it was, one clump, just five metres from the water's edge and extending to the old dis-used Cape Peron track where it would have been originally collected. Mystery solved, *E. baiophylla*, published in 2008 by D. Nicolle & MIH. Brooker.



E. baiophylla, Cape Peron North



E. baiophylla



E. baiophylla, Cape Peron North



While hunting for eucalypts, you come across some great scenes. This image was taken in the Broadhurst Bight area, on my search for what I now know as *E. baiophylla*.

Other news

In early August, I just had to call in at Mt Trio in the Stirling Range and photograph *E. lehmannii* subsp. *parallela*. I got lucky and noticed *E. ligulata* subsp. *stirlingica* flowering as well.



E. lehmannii subsp. *parallela*



E. lehmannii subsp. *parallela*



E. lehmannii subsp. *parallela*



E. ligulata subsp. *stirlingica*



E. ligulata subsp. *stirlingica*



E. dolichorhyncha

I photographed a cultivated specimen of flowering *E. dolichorhyncha* (fuchsia gum) between Hyden and Karlgarin in mid September. *Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha* is from the Esperance Plains and is closely related to *E. forrestiana* and *E. stoatei* (two other species from the Esperance Plains).



E. dolichorhyncha



E. dolichorhyncha



E. accedens

On the same trip, the warm glowing effect from a pure stand of *E. accedens* (powder-bark wandoo) on the Brookton Highway, is to paint, surely.

When you look back at the images I do believe you have to say the diversification of our eucalypts is really special!

I would love to see what eucalypts you're seeing or photographing out there. Send them in at mef@eucalyptsofwa.com.au.

I will be placing examples of your kind comments re the book on my [website](#) and the next newsletter. And soon to come, some eucalypt hunting trips in country rarely visited, extra special, also at www.eucalyptsofwa.com.au.

Hope you enjoy, best wishes.

Malcolm French
December 2013