



16th Australasian **Botanic Guides Conference**

*Beauty rich and rare*  
Kings Park and Botanic Garden Western Australia

**16 - 20 September 2019**

### **WALK SUMMARY: WA's SPECTACULAR EUCALYPTS**

**Western Australia is home to an amazing assortment of eucalypts, most of which are unique to the State. This walk showcases some of these spectacular and special eucalypts, including the Park's native species.**

The eucalypts (in the genera *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia*) are amongst Australia's most important and species-rich plant groups, with over 800 species documented and others still to be described. WA is home to around 400 species, most of which are endemic to the State, with many having special features and exhibiting a remarkable diversity of form, structure and size. Several have large, colourful flowers and ornate buds and fruits.

The walk introduces a wide range of species growing in the beautiful Roe Gardens and nearby parts of the Botanic Gardens, and outlines some of their key biological and historical features, their significance to Aboriginal people and their economic importance.

WA's famous **flowering mallees** are a particular focus, including:

- Mottlecah, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa*, a giant shrub that has massive pink or red flowers and the largest fruits of all eucalypts
- Pear-fruited mallee, *E. pyriformis*, a tall mallee with elegant pendulous buds, flowers and fruits
- Jingymia mallee, *E. synandra* and Beard's mallee, *E. beardiana* which are delicate thin-stemmed mallees with attractive hanging flowers and fruits, and
- Large-fruited mallee, *E. youngiana*, which lives up to its name by having the heaviest fruits of all eucalypts, also sensational large flowers and ribbed buds.

**Park native eucalypts.** Some of the eucalypts from Kings Park's original vegetation are featured, particularly:

- Tuart, *E. gomphocephala*, a majestic grey-barked tree and the tallest of the Park's native species
- Marri, *Corymbia calophylla*, a bloodwood that forms large shapely 'honkey nuts' containing the largest seeds of all eucalypts, and
- Jarrah, *E. marginata*, WA's most famous hardwood, earlier aptly named the Swan River Mahogany.

**Other eucalypts** along the walk include:

- Illyarrie, *E. erythrocorys*, with amazing red-capped buds, vivid yellow flowers and massive square woody nuts
- Fuchsia gum, *E. forrestiana*, a small tree from the south coast, adorned with elongated red buds
- Red-flowering gum, *C. ficifolia*, native to just a few small locations near the State's south coast but described as WA's most famous exported horticultural tree and probably the most widely cultivated ornamental eucalypt in the World!
- Karri, *E. diversicolor*, which is the World's second-tallest flowering plant (after Mountain ash, *E. regnans*) and – like Jarrah - highly important as a timber resource, and
- Examples of several eucalypts native to the State's tropical Kimberley region.

**NB:** not all species presented are flowering in September, but they display many other interesting features, including their buds, fruits, bark and growth habit that help distinguish the different species.