

### Buds:

The shapes of buds and especially caps are useful in the identification of species.

### Flowers:

Most are in clusters in leaf axils or at the end of stems. Flower clusters can be in threes, fives, sevens, or nines. Birds are especially attracted to larger showy flower varieties.

### Fruits commonly known as gumnuts:

Range from matchstick size to 50 mm across. May be round, hemispherical, urn or ovoid in shape. Most useful in identification of species.

### Barks of eucalypts and corymbia:

**Ironbark** - hard, deeply furrowed

**Stringy bark** - stringy, fibrous - including small branches

**Gum** - smooth

**Box** - rough - including small branches

**Half box** - rough but branches smooth

**Corymbia/bloodwood** - rough trunk and branches



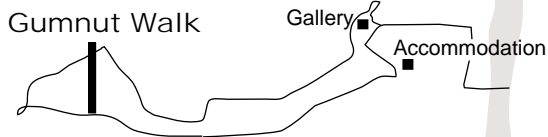
See amazing buds, flowers and gumnuts.  
Stroll along this walk and enjoy the display.

Ensuring successful pollination is the purpose of flowers of all plants. Different flower colours and shapes facilitate different methods of pollination:

- \* small, dull, odourless flowers - **wind**
- \* sweet-smelling nectar - **birds and bats**
- \* yellow and blue flowers - **bees**
- \* iridescent colours often unseen by man - **butterflies and moths**
- \* flowers with firm 'landing strips' - **butterflies and moths**

Eucalypts do not have showy petals: the colourful stamens carry the pollen grains attracting pollinators.

After fertilisation, numerous seeds develop within the gumnuts. Depending on the species, seeds can be released almost immediately or held for many months within the sealed capsule.



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# Gumnut Walk

Visiting flower after flower for a sweet nectar fix, insects, birds and bats busily spread pollen from one eucalypt blossom to the next



This Gumnut Walk holds many wonders

- Eucalyptus tetragona*** (Tallerack or Silver marlock)
  - \* 'tetra' = 4; 'gona' = angles. Buds and gumnuts have 4 corners (angles)
  - \* White flowers in summer; stamens clustered in four groups
  - \* Large, white, waxy, (glaucous) opposite leaves
  - \* Mallee from south west Western Australia

***Eucalyptus crucis*** (Silver or Southern Cross mallee) **Vulnerable**

- \* 'crucis' = cross, first found near the town of Southern Cross
- \* White hemispherical gumnuts
- \* Minnaritchie bark (curls off in thin strips)
- \* Heart-shaped grey leaves
- \* White flowers during summer
- \* Small area between Perth and Coolgardie

Cross the track

- Eucalyptus youngiana*** (Large-fruited mallee)
  - \* Gumnuts large, ribbed, thick-rimmed
  - \* Yellow flowers June to October
  - \* Beautiful ornamental tree for arid areas
  - \* Widespread, Great Victoria Desert and north of the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia

Walk past melaleucas on both sides. Eucalypts and melaleucas belong to the same family – Myrtaceae. Note how their flowers and woody fruits differ.

In to the left is a line of small trees.

- Eucalyptus cerasiformis*** (Cherry-fruited mallee) **Vulnerable**

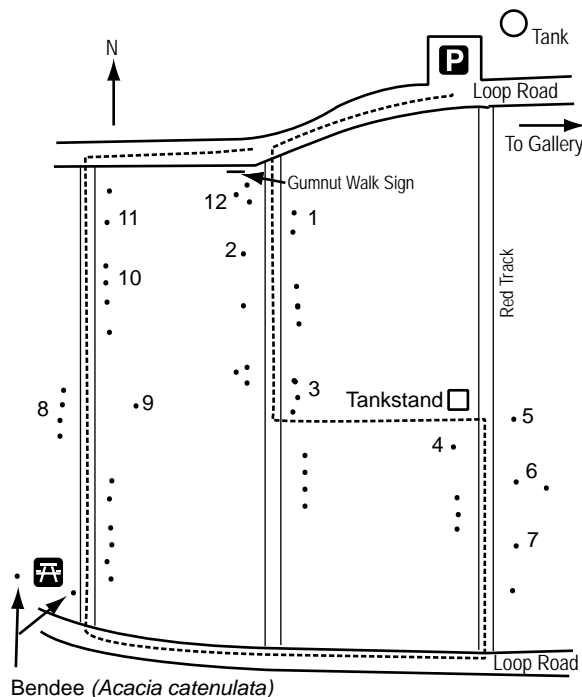
- \* Name means 'the form of a cherry'. Flower heads in cherry-like bunches
- \* Ornamental, urn-like gumnuts
- \* Occurs in low, open forest in red loamy soils
- \* Limited habitat near Hyden and Norseman, Western Australia

Note the grove of taller *Eucalyptus platypus* (Moort) beyond them. Walk down this line of 'cherries', then turn left across to the old high tank-stand on the next track.

- Eucalyptus nutans*** (Marlock)
  - \* Gumnuts shaped like a top with 2 ribs
  - \* Multiple trunks from a lignotuber
  - \* Very restricted distribution in south Western Australia

Cross the track

- Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*** (Marble gum)
  - \* Gumnuts almost spherical
  - \* Buds in sevens, white flowers in summer
  - \* A fine desert gum with white bark and soft grey foliage
  - \* Central Australia
- Eucalyptus ebbanoensis*** (Sandplain mallee)
  - \* Gumnuts have a thick-rimmed cup with 3 valves
  - \* Buds in threes, white cream flowers in summer
  - \* Geraldton to the Great Victoria Desert, Western Australia
- Eucalyptus odontocarpa*** (Sturt Creek mallee)
  - \* Gumnuts almost cylindrical with 4 deeply sunken valves
  - \* White flowers February to June
  - \* Bark deciduous, peeling in narrow strips
  - \* Found across northern Australia from Fitzroy River, Western Australia to Mt Isa, Queensland



Walk to the Loop Road, turn right (west) until you reach the picnic table beneath the two bendee (*Acacia catenulata*). Turn right again and proceed up this track. On your right (east) you will see young *Eucalyptus youngiana* specimens in a short row.

- Eucalyptus wandoo*** (Wandoo)
  - \* Gumnuts cup-shaped or cylindrical
  - \* Clusters of spindle-shaped buds
  - \* Smooth bark features colourful patterns
  - \* Suffered storm damage early in 2005
  - \* South western Western Australia
- Eucalyptus populnea*** (Bimble, Poplar box)
  - \* Gumnuts hemispherical or funnel-shaped
  - \* Waxy, glossy, almost round leaves
  - \* Local species, widely distributed in Queensland and south to the western plains of New South Wales
- Eucalyptus burracoppinensis*** (Burracoppin mallee)
  - \* Round gumnuts like teddy bear eyes
  - \* White flowers September to January
  - \* Dark bark at base, smooth above
  - \* Central Western Australia wheatbelt
- Eucalyptus pyriformis*** (Pear-fruited mallee)
  - \* Large gumnuts on long stalks, ribbed and funnel-shaped with thick rims
  - \* Pendulous, ribbed buds have rounded cap with point
  - \* Red or creamy flowers July to October
  - \* South western Western Australia
- Eucalyptus kingsmillii*** (Kingsmill's mallee)
  - \* Gumnuts ribbed with very thick rim
  - \* Buds ribbed and their caps 'peaked'
  - \* Bark usually rough and loose
  - \* Mid-west Western Australia

**Vulnerable** = At risk of disappearing from the wild within the next 20 to 50 years

**Rare** = Not in danger in the foreseeable future but population in the wild is small