



EucMedia

December 2015

Hello, and welcome to [EucMedia 4](#). Been a while, I know, however the wheels have been turning with much eucalypting to share.

All the very best for Xmas and 2016.
Regards, Malcolm French
December 2015

Goldfields and Great Victoria Desert research trip with Dean Nicolle, April 2015

PNC Baseline Road, Great Victoria Desert, north of Zanthus. The desert and marble gums (*Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*) looked fantastic & then....





PNC Baseline Road



E. gongylocarpa (marble gum), PNC Baseline Road

On traversing the GVD we encountered a huge, new, (unknown to us) haul road, as you do in WA, and as it was heading in the direction we wanted to go, we drove on it for approximately 150 km and to our great surprise encountered many populations of the little known, ornamental treasure of the GVD, *E. rosacea*. A week later we found that the haul road was to the Tropicana Gold mine near the Sydney Simpson Cliffs (hoping the cliffs are still there). More on *E. rosacea* below.



E. rosacea



E. rosacea



▲
The amazing gypsum cliffs at the shore of Lake Boonderoo, Kanandah Station, south-west of Rawlinna supporting big stands of *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* (red mallee). ▶



Further south of Lake Boonderoo, east of Pioneer Tank and north-east of Balladonia, encountered one of the most easterly distributed gimlets in *E. salubris* (gimlet). ▼





E. yalataensis (Yalata mallee) on the scarp edge

Whilst doing a special project on the Nullarbor Plain at Madura Plains station, I had some time to check the eucalypts on the Hampton Tableland and associated Wylie Scarp. What fantastic country.



E. calcareana (Nundroo mallee) on the Hampton Tableland



E. gracilis (yorrell) overlooking the Roe Plain

*E. platydisca*, Jimberlana Hill

Had to photograph *E. platydisca* (Jimberlana mallee) at Jimberlana Hill, west of Norseman on the Eyre Highway. Cultivated specimens of *E. platydisca* are performing well as a standout ornamental in the wheatbelt of WA, even without watering.

Believing that *E. rosacea* (until the trip as mentioned above) was quite rare, I had been keeping an eye on several plants just north of Zanthus. So for your interest and a demonstration of the recovering power of the desert. Image (A) of *E. rosacea* was taken in 2008 during a big dry; image (B) of the same plant during a good season in 2012. No fruits in 2008, abundant fruits in 2012, as depicted below.



(A) 2008

E. rosacea, north of Zanthus*E. rosacea* fruits

(B) 2012

E. rosacea, north of Zanthus

On the eucalypt front, 2016 is shaping up as a massive year.

Dean Nicolle will be launching his new, highly informative book on planting the right eucalypts for the gardens of all Australia's cities and towns.

In February, I'm off to Ian Roberts' nursery in Blyth in SA to assist analyse seedlings from no less than 240 populations of the somewhat confusing eucalypt group, *E. series Porantherae*, from which a number of potential new species may be formalised. Several images here for your interest, taken on a quick trip to the north-eastern Goldfields for *E. series Porantherae* research last month.



Winjarri Homestead, Winjarri Nature Reserve, north of Leinster



At Winjarri Homestead

Any comments or questions, please contact me under mef@eucalyptsofwa.com.au.



E. rigidula (*E. series Porantherae*), Eristoun Station, north-west of Laverton