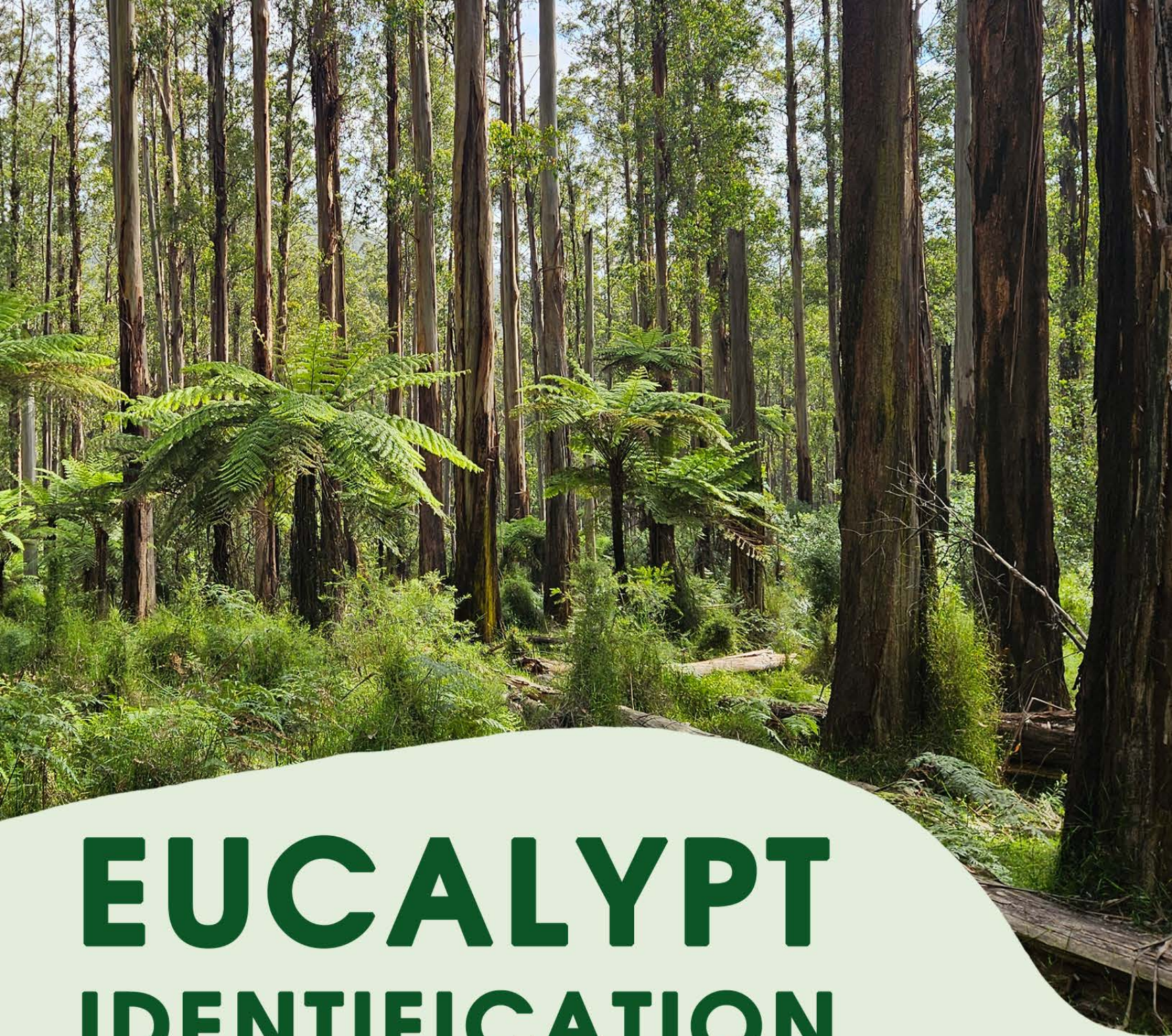




EUCALYPT IDENTIFICATION & ECOLOGY

Immersive 4-day course

Discover Melbourne's eucalypts and diverse landscapes through interactive classroom sessions and hands-on field experience.

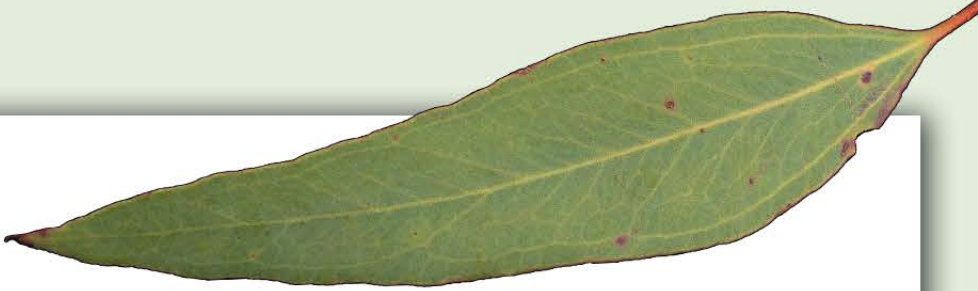
The course is designed to give participants the skills and confidence to identify eucalypts in the field while developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ecology, evolution and relationships that shape these remarkable trees.

Suitable for beginners and experienced participants alike, the course is tailored for land managers, field naturalists, landscape architects, arborists, botanists, zoologists, environmental professionals, students, and anyone wishing to better understand and identify the eucalypts around them.



with Vicky Shukuroglou & Karl Just

Course overview



Each day begins with an interactive indoor session using high-resolution photographs, fresh botanical material (buds, leaves, fruits and bark) and illustrated presentations. Together we will explore the key features used to identify eucalypts, while also examining their ecology, evolution and adaptation to diverse environments.

Before heading into the field, we will introduce the landscape we are about to explore, examining its geology, topography, soils, rainfall and climate. These environmental factors help explain why different eucalypt species and communities occur where they do, making field identification more intuitive and helping participants to read the landscape.



The classroom session is followed by a field excursion where participants apply these skills in natural ecosystems through hands-on identification. Along the way we will explore the broader ecological story of each landscape, examining how eucalypts interact with fungi, animals, water, fire, other plants and the wider environment, providing a richer understanding of the relationships that shape Australian ecosystems.



Field trips

SESSION 1

Saturday 3rd October 2026

Mallee & dry woodlands of Melbourne's west

Explore fascinating semi-arid woodlands and Melbourne's only mallee community while learning to identify Bull Mallee, Grey Box, Werribee Blue Box, Yellow Gum and other characteristic species.



SESSION 2

Saturday 17th October 2026

Foothill forests of the middle Birrarung (Yarra)

Discover foothill forests of Nillumbik, home to Candlebark, Yellow Box, Red Stringybark and associated species. At Spadonis Reserve, discover the Yarra River/Birrarung floodplain woodlands, featuring the rare Buxton Gum — known to occur naturally in only two locations — along with Swamp Gum, Manna Gum and River Red Gum.



SESSION 3

Saturday 14th November 2026

Tall forests around Healesville

Experience Victoria's towering wet forests while learning to identify Mountain Ash, Messmate, Mountain Grey Gum and other species characteristic of these cool, high-rainfall environments.



SESSION 4

Saturday 28th November 2026

Coastal sand plains of Melbourne's south-east

Learn about the distinctive vegetation of the coastal sand plains where we will identify Coast Manna Gum, Mealy Stringybark, Narrow-leaf Peppermint and other species adapted to these nutrient-poor soils.



By the end of the course you will:



Identify and be familiar with Melbourne's eucalypt species



Understand how geology, soils and climate influence eucalypt distribution



Know how to use bark, buds, leaves, fruits and habitat to distinguish similar species



Recognise common eucalypt communities and their associated flora and fauna



Develop a deeper appreciation of the ecology and evolution of Australia's iconic trees

What to bring



Lunch and snacks for the full day



Ample drinking water



Clothing/sun protection suitable for field conditions and Melbourne's dynamic weather

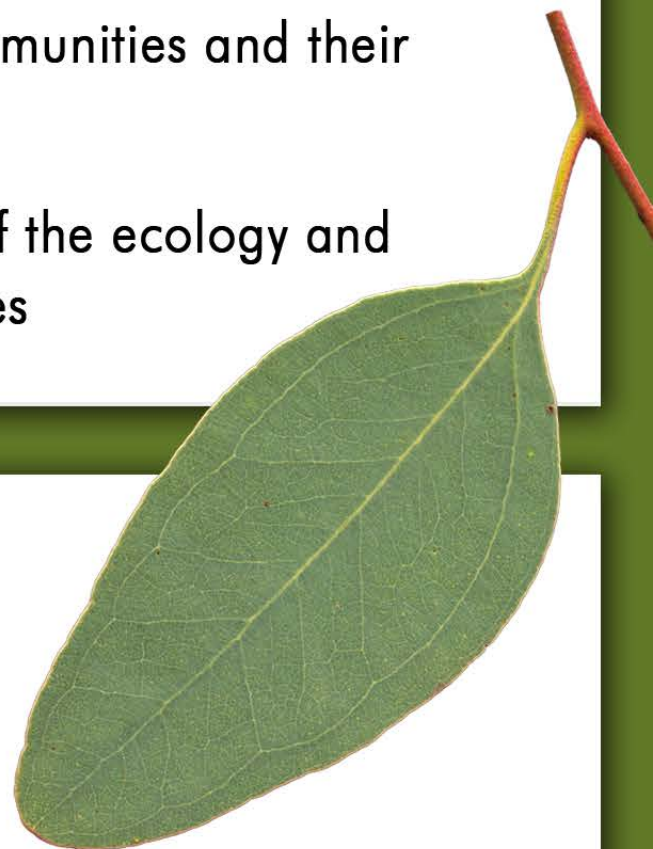


Glasses if you use them



Optional: notebook, pen/pencil, camera, binoculars.

Note: Participants are responsible for their own travel. We will help coordinate car-pooling once registrations are received.





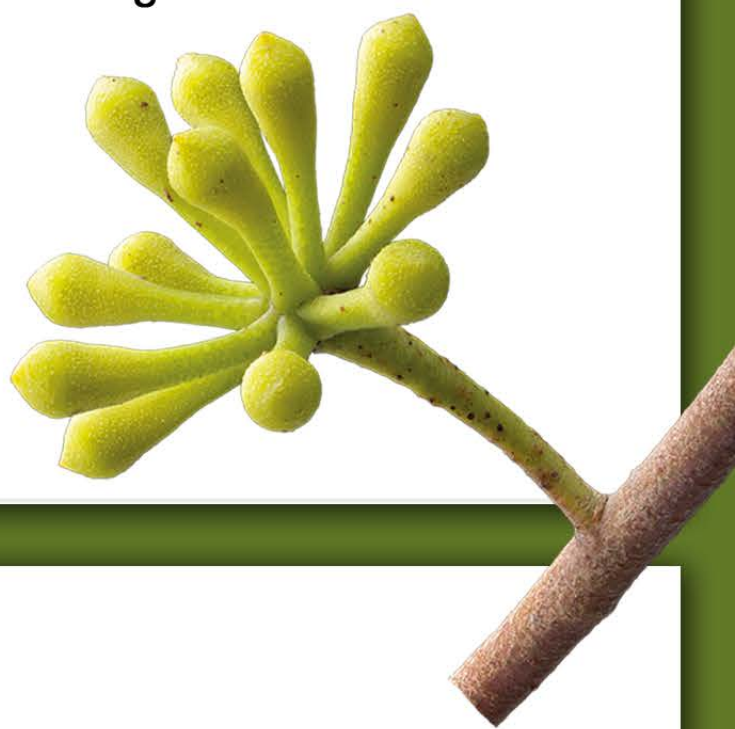
Your course leaders

Vicky Shukuroglou is an ecologist and co-author of the *ACE Guide to Eucalypts, Melbourne*. Through years of field observation, bush regeneration, photography and ecological study, she has developed a deep understanding of Melbourne's remarkable eucalypt diversity and the subtle features that distinguish species.

Her teaching combines practical identification skills with a broader appreciation of eucalypt ecology, encouraging participants to read the landscape and develop a lasting connection with Australia's iconic eucalypts.

Karl Just is a botanist, zoologist and restoration ecologist with over 20 years' experience in ecological consultancy and bushland management. He has led more than 200 conservation projects across Victoria, with expertise in vegetation assessment and monitoring, threatened species recovery, ecological restoration, wetland creation and native grassland management.

Karl leads walks and field workshops on plant identification and ecology, combining scientific knowledge with an engaging, accessible teaching style.



Cost

The full course fee is \$900 per participant (concession \$830). Participants are expected to attend the full program. Numbers are limited to 20 people to maximise opportunities for discussion and personal guidance during both classroom and field sessions.

**For all enquiries and bookings, email
info@eucalyptsmelbourne.au**