



National Eucalypt Day Information Sheet

National Eucalypt Day is an initiative of Eucalypt Australia that aims to raise awareness of eucalypts and celebrate the important place that they hold in the hearts and lives of Australians. National Eucalypt Day (NED) 2018 held on and around the 23 March.

The National Eucalypt Day program aims to meet the promotion, education and conservation objectives of Eucalypt Australia by addressing the themes of tree breeding and genomics, primary education and public awareness.

The beginnings 2014 and 2015:

National Eucalypt Day had humble beginnings with the inaugural event in 2014 being the opening of the Bjarne K Dahl memorial boardwalk at Lake Mountain Victoria. The 2015 event focused on our supporters. Two eucalypt experts, Professor David Cantrill (Chief Botanist for Victoria) and Dr Dean Nicolle, presented at a special evening at the Australia Garden in Cranbourne. Dr Nicolle was also presented with the inaugural Bjarne K Dahl medal for his contribution to eucalypt knowledge.

A change of focus, 2016:

The third year, 2016, had a change of emphasis and included multiple celebrations of the efforts and projects of past grantees. Two special events were included during the celebration. The first event, the Conserving Eucalypts Symposium, was a collaboration with the Royal Society of Victoria and included nine eucalypt experts presenting information on the state of eucalypts in a changing environment. The second event had an education focus and included Healesville Sanctuary and Catholic Education Melbourne hosting approximately 120 students learning about the importance of eucalypts as habitat. In the third year the Bjarne K Dahl medal was awarded to the inspirational Leon Costermans for his lifetime of work on the botanical (with a key focus on eucalypts) and geological aspects of South East Australia.

Multiple States and events, 2017

The fourth National Eucalypt Day event in 2017 included a dramatic increase in the extent of participating groups, States and public reached. Events ranged from walk and talks at Botanic gardens, a eucalypt identification bus tour, Currency Creek Arboretum open days, Botanic Garden open days, art exhibitions, poetry readings, indigenous cultural practices – traditional koorong making, announcement of the ABR Eucalypt Fellow and Bjarne K Dahl medalist, and many different community events. In total there were 26 events in 6 States. More than 2500 people physically attended an event and more than 1.4 million people were reached on social media with the day trending at 21st on Twitter in Australia on the 23 March 2017.

This year, 2018

This fifth National Eucalypt Day to be held in 2018 will build on the events of 2017 with many partners from 2017 again celebrating eucalypts. An emphasis will be placed on engaging the community through social media with the release of informative short videos from the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network, CSIRO, the Australian Academy of Science and Remember the Wild. A full list of activities and events can be found at <https://www.eucalyptaaustralia.org.au/national-eucalypt-day-2018> , on Twitter by searching for the hashtag #EucBeaut18, and on the @EucalyptAus Facebook page.