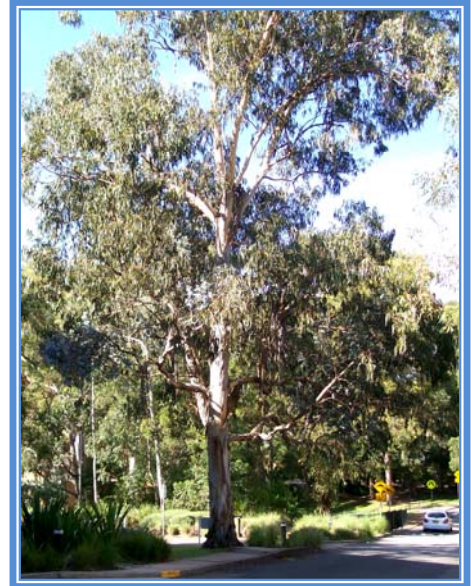
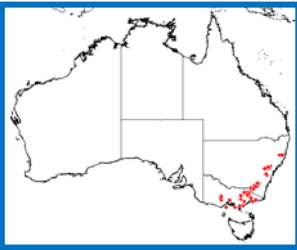


Plant of the Week
***Eucalyptus globulus* subsp.**
bicostata
Southern Blue Gum or
Eurabbie



Changes in plant names are a problem for many and the **Southern Blue Gum**, or **Eurabbie**, is no exception. The Tasmanian Herbarium and the National Herbarium of Victoria refer to this species as *Eucalyptus globulus* subsp. *bicostata*, but the National Herbarium of New South Wales in Sydney, retain it as a species in its own right, *Eucalyptus bicostata*. Confusing, isn't it? The **Southern Blue Gum** grows naturally in southern Victoria and south-eastern New South Wales, whereas its close relation, the **Tasmanian Blue Gum** (*E. globulus* subsp. *globulus*), can only be found in the wild in southern Victoria and Tasmania.



No matter what the name, the Southern Blue Gum is a magnificent tree, with a massive white trunk, huge, blue-green, sickle-shaped leaves, and chunky, waxy, bluish white buds and capsules. The buds are grouped in clusters of three and it has a skirt of rough bark at the base whereas buds of Tasmanian Blue Gums occur singly and the trunk is smooth from ground level upwards. Look for Southern Blue Gums along Research Park Drive on the eastern side of campus.

Alison Downing & Kevin Downing, 17.04.2011

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Downing Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences

Map: Australia's Virtual Herbarium <http://chah.gov.au/avh/>

Photographs: A. Downing

