

## A Self-Guided Walk

June-July 2024

WITTUNGA



Apart from two of the eucalypts in the list, the theme for this walk might be size. Some are just small in stature, or have other features in miniature, from the small, plain flowers preferred by butterflies, to the tiny florets in the flowerheads of species from the daisy family. Leaves range from the unusually large juvenile leaves of white box to the tiny leaves of the thryptomene and sheoak.

See over page for map

\*An Australian native

- \*1 *Goodenia ovata*** Hop goodenia NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC  
On the path near the south end of the butterfly garden (G) hop goodenia is a low spreading shrub with many bright-yellow flowers with a 2-up, 3-down arrangement of petals. The glossy-green, toothed, leaves are ovate, paler below and sticky when young. The genus is named for Samuel Goodenough (1743-1827), an English Bishop of Carlisle and an amateur botanist and collector. It is an ideal plant for a variety of garden designs eg a coastal native garden, a biodiversity garden or children's garden. Here in this bed it is a host plant for the Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*) as well as other species of butterfly.
- \*2 *Indigofera australis*** Australian indigo All Australian states  
Behind the hop goodenia, *Indigofera australis* (best seen from the lawn) is another host for the larvae of native butterflies. A slender, upright shrub with blue-green pinnate leaves and dark-purplish flowering stems, it is frost-hardy and can withstand brief periods of drought. The typical pea-flowers occur in short racemes in the leaf axils and range in colour from pinkish through to soft purple tones. Bright green seed pods (legumes) hang from the branches after flowering. Some species are a source of the dye indigo.
- 3 *Felicia amelloides*** Blue felicia bush South Africa  
A hardy, fast-growing, long-lived small shrub, this daisy has sky-blue 'petals' (ray florets) around a central disc of tiny yellow flowers. The flowerheads are held well above the foliage and attract a range of insects including bees, wasps and butterflies. Light pruning during summer will encourage more flowers.
- 4 *Crassula ericoides* ssp. *ericoides*** Heath crassula, large whipcord South Africa  
*Crassula ericoides* is a small succulent native to the dry coastal belt from Bredasdorp in the SW Cape to Eshowe in KwaZulu-Natal. Like other crassulas it takes in CO<sub>2</sub> at night, minimising the loss of internal moisture. In winter clusters of white to cream star-shaped flowers with brown anthers appear at the tips of branches. It is named for the resemblance of its leaves to those of many ericas (commonly called heaths) which typically have small, closely-packed leaves along their stems (eg the *Erica cerinthoides* nearby).
- \*5 *Eucalyptus kruseana*** Bookleaf or Kruse's Mallee Endemic to the WA goldfields region  
One of the few eucalypts to retain its juvenile leaves lifelong, its natural habitat is around granite outcrops in isolated areas near Norseman and Kalgoorlie. If pruned back to the lignotuber to encourage a compact mallee habit, it is ideal even for small gardens. First described in the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy, it was named by Ferdinand von Mueller for John Kruse, a German-born chemist living in Melbourne.
- \*6 *Eucalyptus caleyi*** Caley's ironbark Hunter Valley NSW to far SE Qld  
An attractive tree with dark, fissured, persistent bark, blue-grey foliage, red branchlets and white flowers in groups of seven. Among the most attractive features are the long, pendulous branches hanging from the upper canopy, some to near ground level,. This species is named after George Caley (1770–1829), a botanical collector sent by Sir Joseph Banks to New South Wales where he worked from 1800–1810.
- \*7 *Allocasuarina scleroclada*** Sheoak South coast of WA  
Just next to the ironbark is another WA endemic from scrub and low woodlands growing on rocky hillsides and limestone shelves near the south coast. *A. scleroclada* (meaning hard branch) has separate male and female plants – this one with 'cones' containing dark winged fruits is a female. Like all the sheoaks, the leaves have been reduced to a whorl of tiny scales around the nodes of the green photosynthetic stems.
- \*8 *Eucalyptus albens*** White box Southern Flinders Ranges, SA Qld, NSW, Vic  
The labelled tree near the junction marks the start of an avenue of white box. Towards the end of the row is a storm-damaged tree with prolific regrowth of large, waxy-white juvenile leaves - a response to the strong winds in late 2022 which caused havoc across Wittunga. Unlike the bookleaf mallee (#5) these leaves will be replaced by the familiar adult foliage seen on intact white box nearby. The common name comes from the fine light-grey bark and the covering of white powdery wax on the long buds, budcaps and stalks.
- \*9 *Thryptomene baeckeacea*** Coastal thryptomene Endemic to WA  
This attractive low shrub belongs to the family Myrtaceae, along with other native genera such as *Baeckia* and *Micromyrtus*. It flowers profusely between May and September, and has successive pairs of opposite leaves oriented at right angles to those immediately below. It was first described in 1864 by Ferdinand von Mueller from material collected by Augustus Oldfield near the Murchison River, north of Geraldton.
- 10 *Eriocephalus africanus*** Wild rosemary South Africa  
A bushy, evergreen shrub with small, greyish, aromatic leaves in tufts along the branches. In autumn the bush is covered with small white 3-ligulate daisy flowers with dark-purple florets in the centre. Soon after flowering, fruits covered in long, white hairs form in terminal clusters. These attractive, fluffy seed heads look like cotton wool or snow. The leaves have traditionally been used to treat coughs and colds.

**To limit the spread of soil-borne diseases, please avoid walking on the garden beds**