

The Eucalypts are usually easily recognised, if not by the simple fact that they are part of the bush regarded by Australian as Australian, then by the fact that when the leaves are crushed many species emit a strong smell of eucalyptus oil. ~~Some of the street trees in Ringwood are Eucalypts and beyond the aim of this.~~

In separating the eucalypts the bark is usually used as a distinguishing characteristic. The typical Gum Tree is that which has a smooth bark on all or most of the trunk and the main branches. The bark peels off in thin long strips each summer when there may be a delightful colour change in the new surface.

In Box trees the bark will rub off in small fibres. Peppermint trees have bark which is rather similar but they may be told apart if the leaves are crushed because they will emit a strong peppermint scent.

The last type in the Ringwood area for us to recognize is the Stringybarks. This bark is coarse and fibrous. It persists on the trunk and larger branches where it becomes very hard and deeply furrowed with age. Ironbarks do not appear to have crossed the Yarra River but may be found on the north bank at Warrandyte.

Another characteristic which helps in determining the species of eucalypts is the shape of the juvenile leaves. Juvenile means young. These leaves ^{which} ~~are~~ are the first to grow are called this but also when a tree has been damaged as by fire or cutting the leaves which first appear are also known as juvenile leaves and are distinct in shape from the mature leaves.

In trying to determine the name for the trees encountered consider the characters of general size and form of the tree, the bark, the type and size of the inflorescence and the shape and the size of the buds and fruit. It is of assistance to know the species which more competent people have listed for the area as then similar species which do not occur may be omitted from our investigation.

Swamp Gum (Eucalyptus ovata) is a small to medium tree which may occur on some areas of poorly drained soil which have not been cleared or built upon. The bark at the butt may have large dark pieces but the upper trunk and branches has the thin

gum bark which peels off in ribbons and leaves smooth grey or pink patches beneath. The gumnuts are in groups of about 7 and the mature gum nut is a characteristic cone-shape with a flat top.

Manna Gum (E. viminalis) is normally found in areas of ~~better~~ better drainage and less severe frost, but at times may be found with Swamp Gum. The name "viminalis" means "willow-like" and refers to the drooping habit of the narrow leaves. The bark at the butt is persi^stent and hard but the smooth bark on the upper trunk and branches peels off in long strips which sometimes gives the tree the name "Ribbon Gum". Juvenile leaves are bright green, stalkless and opposite. Mature leaves are long and narrow. The gumnuts are in threes and open with prominent valves.

It is not likely that Candlebark Gum (E. rubida) will be found. It is a very similar tree except that the juvenile leaves are broad and roundish.

The stringybark group is, or should be easily recognised by its bark. The commonest species is that known as Mealy Stringybark (E. cephalocarpa). This is a often a small tree 20 to 30 feet high with a crooked trunk and branching from near the ground. The bark is grey-brown, thick and spongy. It also persists onto the upper branches for a short distance. The gumnuts are in groups of 3 to 10 usually about 8. They have a whitish-coating on them. This coating is referred to as "bloom". The juvenile leaves are stalkless opposite and fairly broad.

Messmate (E. obliqua) is almost recognized by its brown ~~fur-~~ furrowed interlacing stringy strands of fibres which persist on the trunk and onto the larger branches. This was the first species of Eucalypts to be scientifically named and described but specimens had been collected by Sir Joseph Banks. Eucalyptus obliqua was collected by David Nelson, in Van Dieman's Land, now called Tasmania, and took the specimens back to England. Charles Louis L'Heritier de Brutelle was a Frenchman who visited England in 1786-7. During his visit he was able to study some of the botanical collections from recent voyages of discovery including Cook's Third Voyage. In 1788 L'Heritier published the first description of the genus Eucalyptus! The name is aptly chosen when we consider the meaning from the Greek.

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"eu" meaning "well" and kalyptos meaning "covered". This name refers to the cap or operculum which covers the flower while in the bud stage. ~~Since~~ The messmate derived its name from its uneven sided leaves where they join the leaf stalk.

Red Stringybark (E. macrorhynchos) is not common and as it was a tree of the better soils has been cleared from most of its natural occurrences. Red Stringybark has the typical persistent ~~bark~~ furrowed fibrous bark of its group. The trunk is usually straight and from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the height of the tree. The gumnuts are elongated compared with the other stringybarks in the district. The name macrorhynchos means macro - large, rhyncha - beaked, and refers to the large operculum.

White Stringybark (E. globoidea) is a medium size tree with a straight trunk and persistent "stringybark" furrowed bark. The juvenile leaves are wavy edged, on short or no stalk and with tufts of fine hair on the underside. The gum-nuts are in dense clusters of 6-12 with the operculum a sharply pointed cap. The specific name "globoidea" means "globular" and refers to the mature gumnuts which are almost spherical.

Long-leaf Box (E. gonicalyx) is not a true box. The bark is rather similar to the box bark being thick and rough ~~ent~~ on the trunk and larger ~~branches~~ and ~~peel~~ rubbing off in flakes but it is usually coarser than the box bark. The adult leaves are long and tapering to a point and dark green on both surfaces. The juvenile leaves are broad, opposite, stalkless and covered with a bloom (white powder). The gumnuts are on a broad flat stalk, in groups of 4-7 and make a star-like arrangement. The mature gumnuts are ridged down both sides and this is where it derives its name because gonio ~~means~~ calyx ~~means~~ means angled ~~cal~~ calyx.

Narrow-leafed Peppermint (E. radiata) is easily recognised by the odour which crushed leaves emit. The bark is also ~~different~~ different from the other species we are likely to encounter. ~~It~~ The bark is persistent on the trunk and lower branches but will crumble in small pieces if rubbed. The juvenile leaves are ~~narrow~~ narrow, sessile and opposite while the mature leaves are narrow and thin dark green but dotted with many oil dots from which ~~the~~

the odour comes when the leaves are crushed. It should be remembered that the first export ever made from Australia was ~~distil~~ distilled from near Sydney. This species was also used by Joseph Bosisto during the 1850's when he commenced his Parrot brand Eucalyptus oil. Today much of our eucalyptus oil comes from overseas but some mallee species are still used. The name "radiata" refers to the habit of the gumnuts in the juvenile state. The gumnuts are small with tiny pointed caps which when removed leave a pear shaped gumnut with a flattish top.

The Chart - Eucalypts of Ringwood could be used, note name changes and omit Flowering Period. If necessary could supply art work - line drawings for illustration.

Key on back page could be used as follows

Bark whitish etc.
Bark . . .

A. lateral vein

Lateral vein
~~over~~ ~~leaf~~

alter sheet symbols. to read

B.

C

D

E.

..... Gums

A.

instead of B put.

Mahoganies

B

7A

The following is a list of plants which it is believed contains those plants which were found in the boundaries of the City of Ringwood before many of them disappeared before the housing development. Some of these will still be found in the reserves which have been set aside by the City.

Acacia acinacea	Gold-dust Wattle	Mimosaceae
	ⁿ	
aculeatissima	Thi-leaf Wattle	Mimosaceae
armata	Hedge Wattle	
baileyana	Cootamundra Wattle	
brownii	Heath Wattle	
dealbata	Silver Wattle	
decurrens	Early Black Wattle	
diffusa	Spreading Wattle	
elata	Cedar Wattle	
implexa	Lightwood	
leprosa	Cinnamon Wattle	
longifolia	Sallow Wattle	
mearnsii	Late Black Wattle	
melanoxylon	Blackwood	
mucronata	Narrow-leaf Wattle	
myrtifolia	Myrtle Wattle	
oxycedrus	Spike Wattle	
pycnantha	Golden Wattle	
retinodes	Wirilda	
stricta	Hop Wattle	
verniciflua	Varnish Wattle	
Acaena	anserinifolia	Bidgee-Widgee
	ovina	Sheep's Burr
Acianthus caudatus		Mayfly Orchid
Acianthus reniformis		Mosquito Orchid
Acrotriche prostrata		Trailing Ground-berry
	serrulata	Honey-pots
Amperea xiphoclada		Broom Spurge
Amyema quandang		Grey Mistletoe
	pedulum	Drooping Mistletoe
Anguillaria dioica		Early Nancy
Arthropodium milleflorum		Pale Vanilla-lily
Asperula conferta		Common Woodruff
Asterolasia asteriscophora		Lemon Star-bush
^s Asteroloma	humifusum	Cranberry Heath

see 2nd
last page -
for details -
the section

Brunonia australis

Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia
Billardiera scandens	Common Apple-berry
Bossiaea prostrata	Creeping Bossiaea
Brachycome cardiocarpa	Swamp Daisy
Brachycome decipiens	Field Daisy
Bulbine bulbosa	Bulbine Lily
Burchardia umbellata	Milkmaids
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Caesia parviflora	Pale Grass-lily
vitata	Blue Grass-lily
Caladenia alba	White Caladenia
angustata	Musky Caladenia
caerulea	Blue Caladenia
carnea	Pink Fingers
congesta	Black-tongue Caladenia
deformis	Bluebeard Caladenia
dilatata	Green-comb Spider Orchid
iridescens	Bronze Caladenia
menziesii	Hare Orchid
patersonii	Common Spider Orchid
Calochilus paludosus	Red Beard-Orchid
robertsonii	Purplish Beard-orchid
Carex appressa	Tall Sedge
inversa	Sedge
Cassinia aculeata	Common Cassinia
arcuata	Drooping Cassinia
Cassytha glabella	Tangled Dodder-laurel
melantha	Coarse Dodder-laurel
pubescens	Downy Dodder-laurel
Casuarina littoralis	Black She-oke
Chamaescilla corymbosa → Chenopodium pumilio	Clammy Goosefoot
Chiloglottis gunnii	Common Bird-orchid
Clematis microphylla	Small-leaved Clematis
Comesperma calymega	Blue-spike Milkwort
volubile	Love Creeper
Correa reflexa	Common Correa

Cotula australis	Common Cotula
Cotula coronopifolia	Water-buttons
Craspedia glauca	Common Billy-buttons
Cryptostylis ^{leptochile} subulata	Large Tongue-orchid
Daviesia latifolia	Hop Bitter-pea
ulicifolia	Gorse Bitter-pea
virgata	Narrowleaf Bitter-pea
Dianella revoluta	Black-anther Flax-lily
tasmanica	Tasman Flax-lily
Dichondra repens	Kidney Weed
Dichopogon strictus	Chocolat Lily
Dillwynia cinerescens	Grey Parrot-pea
sericea	Showy Parrot-pea
Diuris longifolia	Wallflower Orchid
maculata	Leopard Orchid
palachila	Broad-tip Diuris
pedunculata	Golden Moths
punctata	Purple Diuris
sulphurea	Tiger Orchid
Drosera auriculata	Tall Sundew
peltata	Pale Sundew
planchonii	Climbing Sundew
whittakeri	Scented Sundew
Epacris impressa	Common Heath
microphylla	Coral Heath
Eriochilus cucullatus	Parson's Band
Eucalyptus cephalocarpa	Mealy Stringybark
globoidea	White Stringybark
goniocalyx	Long-leaf Box
macrorhyncha	Red Stringybark
obliqua	Messmate
radiata	Narrow-leaf Peppermint
viminalis	Manna Gum
Exocarpus cupressiformis	Cherry Ballart
Gahnia radula	Thatch Saw-sedge
Galium gaudichaudi	Rough Bedstraw
Gastrodia mesemoides ^{sesamoides}	Waxlip Orchid Cinnamon Bells
Glossodia major	Waxlip Orchid

Euphrasia collina

Cynoglossum saarcolens

Glycine clandestina	Twining Glycine
Gnaphalium japonicum	Creeping Cudweed
luteoalbum	
lutescens	
<i>Gompholobium</i> huegelii <i>Common</i>	Wedge-pea
Goodenia geniculata	Bent Goodenia
humilis	Swamp Goodenia
lanata	Trailing Goodenia
ovata	Hop Goodenia
pinnatifida	Cut-leaf Goodenia
<i>Gratiola peruviana</i> Goodia lotifolia	Golden-Tip
Hakea nodosa	Yellow Hakea
sericea	Silky Hakea
teretifolia	Dagger Hakea
ulicina	Gorse Hakea
<i>Halenia tetragyna</i> Hardenbergia violacea	Purple Coral-pea
<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i> Helichrysum scorpioides	Curling Everlasting
semipapposum	Clustered Everlasting
Hibbertia australis	Guinea-flower
Hibbertia obtusifolia	
stricta	Erect Guinea-flower
Hovea heterophylla	Common Hovea
Hydrocotyle laxiflora	Stinking Pennywort
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i> Indigofera australis	Austral Indigo
<i>Hypoxis glabella</i> <i>Juncus</i> australis	Austral Rush
<i>Isotoma flavicollis</i> Juncus bufonis	Toad Rush
pauciflorus	Loose-flower Rush
Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman
Lagenophora stipitata	Common Lagenophora
Leptocarpus	Variable Sword-sedge
Lepidosperma laterale	Variable Sword-sedge
Leptorhynchossquamatus	Scaly Buttons
tenuifolius	Wiry Buttons
Leptospermum lanigerum	Woolly Tea-tree
juniperinum	Prickly Tea-tree
myrsinoides	Heath Tea-tree
phylicoides	Burgan
Leucopogon virgatus	Common Beard-heath
<i>Lindium marginale</i> Lobelia	
<i>Lobelia gibbosa</i> Lomandra filiformis	Wattle Mat-rush
longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush

	^a Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush
Hyperanthus swareolens		
Lythrum hyssopifolium	Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paper-bark
	squarrosa	Scented Paper-bark
Microseris	Microseris scapigera	Yam
	Olearia erubescens	Daisy-bush
	lirata	Snowy Daisy-bush
Orthroceras strictum	Patersonia longiscapa	Long Purple-flag
Oxalis corniculatum		
	Pelargonium australe	Austral Stork's-bill
	Persoonia juniperina	Prickly Geebung
	Pimelea curviflora	Curved Rice-flower
	axiflora	Bootlace Bush
	flava	Yellow Rice-flower
	glauca	Smooth Rice-flower
	humilis	Common Rice-flower
	Pittosporum undulatum	Sweet Pittosporum
	Plantago varia	Variable Plantain
	Platylobium formosum	Handsome Flat-pea
	obtusangulum	Common Flat-pea
	Pomaderris aspera	Hazel Pomaderris
	Poranthera microphylla	Small Poranthera
	Prasophyllum archeri	Variable Midge-orchid
	australe	Austral Leek-orchid
	brainei	Green Leek-orchid
	brevilabre	Short-lip Leek-orchid
	despectans	Sharp Midge-orchid
	frenchii	Slaty Leek-orchid
	odoratum	Sweet Leek-orchid
	patens	Broad-lip Leek-orchid
	Prostanthera lasianthos	Victorian Christmas Bush
	Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal
	Pterostylis acuminata	Sharp Green-hood
	alpina	Alpine Greenhood
	barbata	Bearded Greenhood
	concinna	Trim Greenhood
	longifolia	Tall Greenhood
	nutans	Nodding Greenhood
	obtusa	Blunt-tongue Greenhood

	Pterostylis parviflora	Tiny Greenhood
	pedunculata	Maroon-hood
	revoluta	Autumn Greenhood
	Pultenaea daphnoides	Large-leaf Bush-pea
	gunnii	Golden Bush-pea
	scabra	Rough Bush-pea
	Ranunculus lappaceus	Australian Buttercup
Rubus parvifolius	Schoenus apogon	Common Bog-rush
	Scirpus antarcticus	Club-rush
	Senecio ^u latus	Variable Groundsel
Solanum aviculare Sphaerolebium vimineum	Spyridium parvifolium	Dusty Miller
	Stackhousia monogyna	Creamy Stackhousia
Stypandra caespitosa	Stylidium graminifolium	Grass Trigger-plant
	Tetralitheca ciliata	Pink-bells
	Thelymitra antennifera	Rabbit e Ears
	carnea	Pink Sun-orchid
	ixioides	Dotted Sun-orchid
	media	Tall Sun-orchid
	pauciflora	Slender Sun-orchid
	rubra	Salmon Sun-orchid
Thysanotus patersonii tuberosus	Tricoryne elatior	Yellow Autumn Lily
	Velleia paradoxa	Spur Vellia
Veronica gracilis Villarsia exalata Viminaria juncea	Viola betonicifolia	Showy Violet
	hederaceae	Ivy-leaf Violet
	Wahlenbergia stricta	Tall Bluebell
	Xanthorrhoea minor	Small Grasstree

List of Ferns and Fern-like Plants

These names to be inserted in alphabetical order in list of flowering plants.

insert back

page 3	Brunonia australis	Blue Pin-cushion
	Chamaescilla corymbosa	Blue Squill
page 4	Cynoglossum suaveolens	Sweet Hound's Tongue
	Cryptostylis leptochila	Small Tongue-orchid
	Dipodium punctatum	Hyacinth Orchid
	Euphrasia collina	Purple Eye-bright
page 5	<i>Gompholobium huegelii</i> Gratiola peruviana	Common Wesley-pea Austral Brooklime
	Haloragis tetragyna	Common Raspwort
	Hedycarya angustifolia	Austral Mulberry
	Hyperic Hypericum gramineum	Small St. John's Wort
	Hypoxis glabella	Yellow Star
	Isotoma fluviatilis	Swamp Isotome
	Linum marginale	Wild Flax
	Lobelia gibbosa	Tall Lobelia
page 6	Lyperanthus suaveolens	Brown-beaks
	Lythrum hyssopifolia	Small Loosestrife
	Microtis atrata	Yellow Onion-orchid
	oblonga	Sweet Onion-orchid
	parviflora	
	parviflora	Slender Onion-orchid
	unifolia	Common Onion-orchid
	Orthoceras strictum	Horned Orchid
	Oxalis corniculata	Yellow Wood-sorrel
page 7	Rubus parvifolius	Small -leaf Bramble
	Solanum aviculare	Kangaroo Apple
	Sphaerolobium vimineum	Leaf-less Globe-pea
	Stypantra caespitosa	Tufted Lily
	Thysanotus patersonii	Twining Fringe-lily
	tuberosus	Common Fringe-lily
	Veronica gracilis	Slender Speedwell
	Villarsia exaltata	Yellow Marsh-flower
	Viminaria juncea	Golden Spray

List of Ferns and Fernlike Plants

Azolla filicoides	Pacific Azolla
pinnata	Ferny Azolla
Adiantum aethiopicum	Common Maidenhair
Blechnum procerum	Hard Water-fern
Cheilanthes tenuifolia	Rock Fern
Lindsaya linearis	Screw Fern
Ophioglossum coriaceum	Austral Adder's Tongue
Polystichum proliferum	Mother Shield Fern
Pteridium esculentum	Brecken Fern



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Fungi

The Wattles of Ringwood

Wattles belong to the genus "Acacias" The early settlers to Australia originally applied the name "wattle" to those species of plants which had pliant branches suitable for building "wattle and daub" houses.

If we wish to gain a full appreciation of wattles we need to study those throughout Australia, but there is much that can be gained from a close look at our Ringwood species. Besides those which occur naturally there are now many species being grown in gardens. Few of these however are establishing themselves with self-sown seed.

Wattles may be readily divided into two distinct groups. The first is that which has feathery (bipinnate) foliage on the mature plant and those in which this foliage has disappeared and is replaced by various shapes of the leaf-stalk, known botanically as phyllode.

To assist in identification of local wattles a key is given. Use this together with the description and illustrations.

Bipinnate foliage on mature plants

- A. baileyana, A. dealbata, A. decurrens, A. elata,
- A. mearnsii.

Bipinnate foliage absent on mature plants

Flowers in rods

- A. longifolia, A. mucronata, A. Oxycedrus, A. verticillata.

Flowers in balls

Phyllodes ~~is~~ with more than one ~~ve~~ nerve

- A. implexa, A. melanoxylon

Phyllode with ^{one} nerve

Flowers in a ball on a single stalk

Phyllode thin

- A. aculeatissima, A. browni, A. diffusa

Phyllode broad

- A. leprosa, A. stricta

Flowers in a ball in a raceme

- 2-4 flowers in a ball A. myrtifolia

More than 2-4 flowers in a ball

- A. pycnantha, A. retinodes

Please keep this underneath one another as limits indicate

9B

The wattle^s which retain their true leaves, or feathery foliage as some call it, are trees in the Ringwood area.

Late Black Wattle (A. mearnsii) is probably the most common of the wattle trees. It is about 20 to 30 feet high. The leaves if examined under a magnifying glass, are minutely hairy. If the leaf stem (rachis) is examined it will be seen that there are a number of glands irregularly spaced along it. The pale flower heads appear during November and December, are in terminal panicles or short racemes. Older trees are often attacked by borers.

Silver Wattle (A. ^{ea}albata) is also a tree about 20 to 30 feet high. It often has its trunk and branches mottled with silvery^{ry} patches - hence its meaning to the scientific name which means white upon a darker ground. The leaves are dull greyish-green. If we examine the glands along the leaf stem we find that they are regularly spaced. The pale yellow flowers appear about September.

Early Black Wattle (A. decurrens) while not naturally occurring in the Ringwood area may be found in some areas where they have self-sown. It is possible to see a glorious display along the railway line in Paterson Street between Ringwood and East Ringwood station. It is a tree about 30 feet high with dark green leaves. The pinnules (small parts of the leaf) are widely spaced while the branches and the leaf stalks are angular.

Cootamundra Wattle (A. baileyana) is many miles from its natural home of Cootamundra N.S.W. The name Cootamundra came from the station owned by Hurley about 1830. This appears to be the interpretation of the aboriginal word for swamp or low-lying land. It is widely planted in gardens and used as a street-tree in some of the ststreets of Ringwood. It is a small tree to about 15 to 20 feet in height. The bipinnate foliage is blue-green. The lemon yellow flowers appear ⁱⁿ Ringwood about July.

Cedar Wattle [^]has been planted (A. elata) in several ~~are~~ areas. It is a ^{la}large tree to about 40 feet. It is easily recognised by its large bipinnate leaves which resemble the introduced Peppercorn Tree and by the fact that it flowers during late Summer.

The other wattles we find in the Ringwood area are known as phyllodinous wattles. To help understand this easier a simple experiment could be carried out. This is to sow the seeds from Blackwood (A. melanoxylon) or Golden Wattle (A. pycnantha). As the seedlings develop we can observe the leaf stalk changing - getting longer, broader, or just different, until there is no bipinnate foliage left but the structure which has the shape and function of a leaf. This is known as a phyllode.

The Ringwood species which have phyllodes may be separated into ~~two~~ groups. The first group is that which bears the flowers in a spike (like a golden sausage).

Those wattles which have a dull phyllode about 3 to 4 inches long and about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch wide and with 2 or 3 prominent nerves on an ~~erect~~ ^{erect} shrub 15 to 20 feet high are called Sallow Wattle (A. longifolia). This species probably never occurred naturally in Ringwood but was a garden escape.

Narrow-leaf Wattle (A. mucronata) may no longer occur in Ringwood. The only known plants in recent years along Glenavale Road have been removed while the area was developed. It was a small shrub 6 to 10 feet high with narrow phyllodes in which many nerves could be seen and with the flowers in a loose spike.

The other two wattles with spike flowers may be separated by the phyllodes being broader in Spike Wattle (A. oxycedrus) than in Prickly Moses (A. verticillata) and at the base of the phyllodes of Spike Wattle may be seen a small stipule. A stipule is a small growth just below the junction of the phyllode and the stem. Spike Wattle is not common. Prickly Moses was once common in Bell Bird Park and other swampy areas.

We are now left with the wattles which have the flowers in a ball shape. These are grouped into those which have a single nerve in the phyllode and those which have a number of nerves. In the group which has many nerves in the phyllodes we have Blackwood (A. melanoxylon) and Lightwood (A. implexa). These may be easily separated by appearance - once they are known, by flowering time; Blackwood in the spring and Lightwood in the autumn; where they occur Blackwood in the moister areas and Lightwood on the drier hillsides; and by the seeds, in Blackwood there is a red

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thread joining the seed to the pod and not in Lightwood.

Of the wattles with only one nerve in the phyllode we can separate them into two groups. There are those which have the ~~ball~~ balls of flowers on a single thread and those in which there are a number of balls on a common thread (raceme).

Of those in the first group (single ball flowers) we find Hedge Wattle (A. armata) easy to recognise, particularly if we try to grab hold of it. This is because of the sharp spine (stipule) which is at the base of each phyllode. This species ~~is~~ forms a dense spreading shrub from 6 to 12 feet high. The phyllodes are roughly oblong, usually wavy edged and as mentioned with stiff stipules. It is a favourite ~~nesting~~ nesting bush of small birds.

Cinnamon Wattle (A. leprosa) and Hop Wattle (A. stricta) both have phyllodes about 2 to 3 inches long. Cinnamon Wattle has a distinctive aromatic fr~~o~~agrance. It was once common along Oban Road on the area near North Ringwood State School. Hop Wattle has dull green phyllodes which are straight and ~~is~~ stiff, while the flower heads are almost sessile (without a thread).

Both Thin-leaf Wattle (A. aculeatissima) and Heath Wattle (A. brownii) have short narrow phyllodes. Thin-leaf Wattle is a small spreading shrub with its thin phyllodes pointing in all directions and angles along the stem. Heath Wattle has short stiff narrow sharp-pointed phyllodes and flowers during September and October and a little later than Thin-leaf Wattle. This was once found in the bush around the Scout hall in Bedford Park.

The other wattle in this group is Spreading Wattle (A. diffusa) It is a loose irregular shrub from 3 to 6 feet in ~~the~~ height with the phyllodes narrow, very stiff and sharp (pungent). The flower heads are pale and appear during late winter ~~but~~ at ~~times~~ times earlier than this.

The three species of wattle left may be separated by the number of flowers in the ball. Myrtle Wattle (A. myrtifolia) usually has 2 to 4 flowers in a ball while Golden Wattle and Wirilda have many more up to 60 to 80 in Golden Wattle.

Myrtle Wattle is a small shrub 3 to 6 feet high. Sometimes the stem may be reddish. The phyllodes are broad and about an inch long. On the upper margin of the phyllode below the middle

9E

may be seen a gland
This species together with Golden Wattle make a rapid ^{re-} appearance after fire.

Golden Wattle (A. pycnantha) is a shrub or small tree from 15 to 20 feet high. The phyllodes, particularly on young plants, ~~is~~ are broad and shiny. The main nerve and lateral veins may be easily seen. The gland is prominent ^{on the phyllode} near the stem. The deep golden yellow fragrant flower heads appear during September and October.

Wirilda (A. retinodes) is a more slender shrub to about 18 feet in height. It has slender bluish-green phyllodes. The flower heads are pale yellow and usually appear several times during the year with September and February being commonly good periods. The name Wirilda, once spelt "Wyrilda" seems to have been taken from the name given this species by the Mount Lyndhurst (South Australia) aborigines who used to eat the seeds.

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Birds of the Red Area

Use illustrations from Field Guide to Victorian Wattles to illustrate all species.