

The Box–Ironbark Ecology Course 2016

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The annual Box–Ironbark Ecology Course provides an opportunity to learn about the interaction of landforms, soils, flora and fauna that comprise the Box–Ironbark forests and woodlands of south-eastern Australia. The emphasis is on practical demonstration and field experience.

The course gives participants the skills and knowledge required to understand and interpret the ecology of Box–Ironbark forests and woodlands, and to apply these skills and knowledge for their particular needs.

Field sessions are conducted in small groups led by a team of highly qualified and experienced instructors. Presentations on particular topics are held each evening.

A formal knowledge of geology, botany, zoology or ecology is not required; each session provides the basic knowledge needed to understand the relevant topic.



When: 26–30 September 2016 (Monday to Friday)

Where: Nagambie (central Victoria) and nearby forests

The course is administered by the Euroa Arboretum.

Accommodation is in fully equipped cabins at Nagambie Lakes Leisure Resort, on a quiet backwater of the Goulburn River.

The course fee is AU\$1600 plus GST and covers all accommodation, meals, transport during the course, instruction and course notes.

Applications are due by Friday 26 August 2016, with a deposit of \$500.

The balance of the course fee is due by Friday 16 September 2016.

Places are limited, so you are encouraged to apply early.

An application form and further information are available on the Euroa Arboretum website:

www.euroaarboretum.com.au

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The Box–Ironbark Ecology Course 2016

Instructors and presenters

Cathy Botta is a soil scientist and educator who works with communities in agricultural landscapes. Her special interest is in helping people better understand their own soils and the effects of land management on soil health.

Andrea Canzano is an entomologist with experience in insect conservation and invertebrate biodiversity assessment in Victoria. She is particularly interested in the ecology and conservation of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Garry Cheers is an experienced naturalist who lives and works in Box–Ironbark country. His special interest is in birds in fragmented landscapes.

Paul Foreman is a botanist and forester with a particular interest in box–ironbark, grassland and grassy woodland ecosystem flora, and private land conservation.

Lindy Lumsden is a wildlife biologist who has a special interest in box–ironbark ecosystem fauna. Her passion is bats, their ecology, and introducing them to people.

Ian Mansergh has had a long and distinguished career with the Victorian conservation department (now DELWP) researching forests of East Gippsland, Mountain Pygmy-possums and climate change. He was a major contributor to the FFG Act and Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy. He is an Adjunct Professor at LaTrobe University (Life Sciences), visiting researcher at Deakin University, and farmer.

David Meagher specialises in bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and lichens. He also has an active interest in the environmental history of box–ironbark forests.

Neville Rosengren has surveyed the geomorphology and geology of conservation sites in most parts of Victoria. He is particularly interested in the modes and dynamics of landscape evolution.

Kate Stothers is a landholder in the box–ironbark region, with professional experience in conservation issues on both public and private land. She is interested in ecology in agricultural landscapes, and community development.

Lance Williams is an ecologist with 30 years experience in fauna survey. He has a particular interest in woodlands, their ecology, conservation and restoration.



General course structure

- Monday** Welcome to country, introduction and preliminary field studies (Heathcote–Graytown NP).
Evening presentation: *The Loveliest Spot on Earth*
- Tuesday** Field studies (Heathcote–Graytown NP, Mt Black Flora and Fauna Reserve).
Evening presentation: *All About Bats*
- Wednesday** Field studies (Glenaroua, Tooboora State Forest, Rushworth State Forest).
Evening presentation: *Box–Ironbark in a Changing Climate*
- Thursday** Field project: participants' choice from projects on different themes.
Evening presentation: *Introduction to the Bailieston Block*
- Friday** Practical application of skills and knowledge (private block, Bailieston) and course summary.

COURSE SUPPORTERS

This project is jointly funded by the Goulburn Broken and North East Catchment Management Authorities through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



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