COMMON NAME
WHITE BOX

SCIENTIFIC NAME  *Eucalyptus albens*
FAMILY  MYRTACEAE
CATEGORY  NATIVE TREE

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- Tree 15–25 m in height, with a rounded spreading crown of blue-grey foliage
- Bark rough and finely fissured, light grey, often with bleached whitish patches; upper branches smooth and pale
- Leaves broad, lance-shaped, greyish green to blue-grey; juvenile leaves wide and rounded with a glaucous bloom (a whitish, waxy coating giving a silvery look)
- Flowers creamy-white and showy, occurring March to June; buds with a glaucous bloom
- Seed capsules urn-shaped, 5–10 mm across with a glaucous bloom

WHERE IT GROWS & WHY:

- Occurs in grassy eucalypt woodlands, generally at higher elevations than other local box species
- Prefers relatively fertile, well-drained soils
- Tolerates frost and drought

MANAGEMENT / SIGNIFICANCE:

- Good for shade, shelter and honey production; provides medium to high level cover in windbreaks
- Useful in erosion control due to large, spreading root system; useful for recharge control plantings due to high level of groundwater usage
- Excellent wildlife habitat; flowers and seed are an important food source for native birds and insects and for sugar and squirrel gliders
- Wood is hard, heavy and moderately durable; used for sleepers, fencing and firewood

SIMILAR PLANTS:

- Grey Box (*E. microcarpa*) usually occurs on heavier soils; it has narrower, greener leaves and smaller fruit without the glaucous bloom