

Planting Trees for National Eucalypt Day

National Eucalypt Day was Wednesday, March 23 and in recognition of this day, Damascus College Ballarat received twenty trees and recyclable tree guards from Lachlan Andrews and Civica-ArborSafe, the largest arboricultural consulting company in Australia, to raise awareness of this icon group of Australian trees.

Students spent their Horticulture class planting these native trees with Lachlan's assistance and guidance, along the Commemorative Walk, located out back of the campus. During the planting, students dug holes and gained a greater insight into how large the trees might grow and their uniqueness to this area.



Big thanks to Civica-ArborSafe for their generosity, this gift and the work the students completed improve the natural environment at Damascus and engage staff and students in the numerous, positive physical, mental and environmental aspects they foster. We anticipate that through our actions and incentives we may inspire a strong community spirit where the wider communities' knowledge of environmental issues are also deepened, tools and practices are shared and environmental sustainability becomes a norm, rather than something extra that we have to think about.

The species planted was *Eucalyptus aromaphloia* (Scent-bark). This species is a small to medium-sized tree endemic to Victoria, occurring roughly west from a line between Daylesford and Anglesea, and west to about Casterton. It has a small natural distribution but is locally common in several areas in and around Ballarat such as Mount Helen, Mount Clear, Canadian and Creswick. The species is also common across the Damascus College campus, hence its selection for planting. In natural ecologies it can form pure stands, but is often seen growing in association with other Eucalypts such as *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Messmate Stringybark) and *Eucalyptus dives* (Broad-leaved Peppermint).



A great story for Laudato Si' Week, a celebration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and a call to action for Catholics around the world, which is being celebrated May 16 - 22, 2022.