



SEEDS

Your Poems for **SCIENCE WEEK 2026**

Send to:

feedback@sciencerhymes.com.au

www.sciencerhymes.com.au

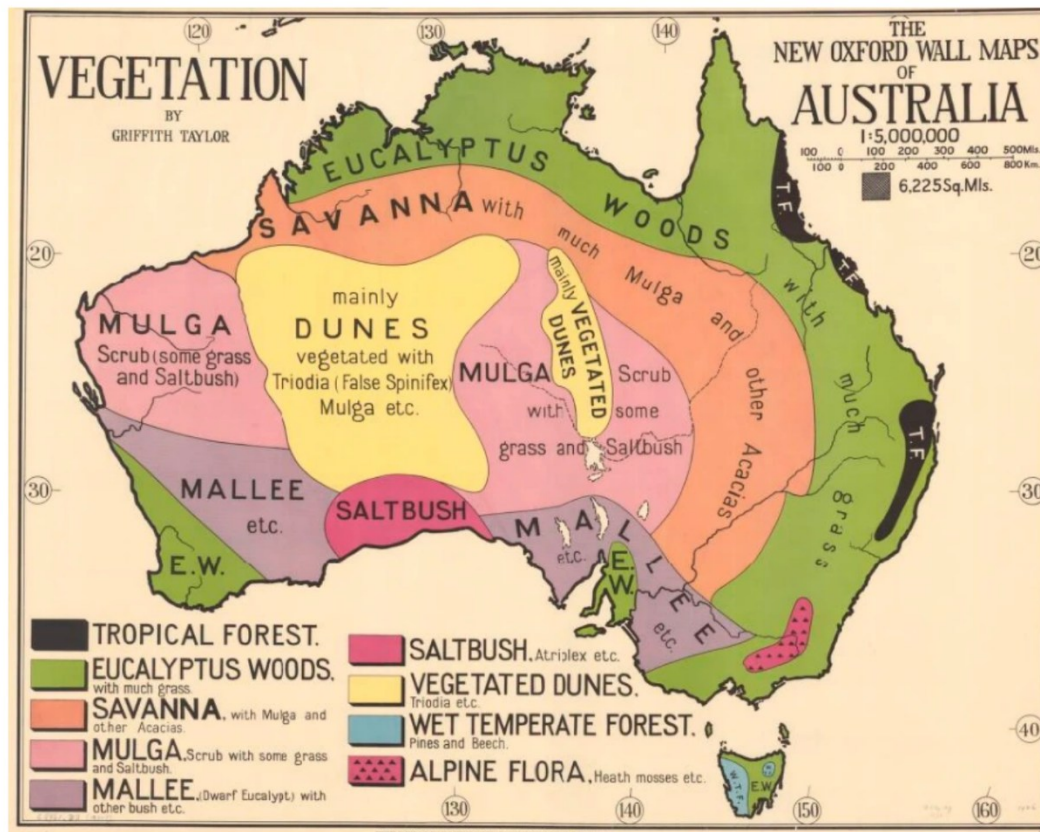
by Friday 31st July

TO

**science
RHYMES**

SCENERY

CELEBRATING OUR VEGETATION: plants, gardens & landscapes



Can you write a science poem?

- 2026 is the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- Science Rhymes is calling for YOUR POEMS about **SEEDS TO SCENERY**.
- Successful submissions will be published in **AUSSIE FLORA-VERSE** for August, to poetically celebrate SCIENCE WEEK.

Can't come up with your own Poem? Use ChatGPT to help!

- Ask an adult/parent to sign you into OpenAI's ChatGPT or equivalent AI program.
- Give it a prompt eg: "write a short rhyming poem about"
- Remember, **AI responses aren't always TRUE.** You'll need to fact-check, then edit or tweak!
- AI assisted poem submissions have some **CONDITIONS.** Please read following page.

AI assisted conditions:

- Include the words **& ChatGPT** (or other AI used) after your name(s) and poem title.
- Include your **answers to the following 4 questions** with your poem submission.
- Were you:
 1. Delighted or disappointed with what AI came up with? (**score out of ten**)
 2. Did you **edit** ChatGPT's response?
 3. What sort of prompt did you use – **simple** or **specific**?
 4. Would you be **happy** to do it again next year?
- Limit of 4 rhyming verses or one Haiku.

Poem from Japan

- A TRUE HAIKU is written in Japanese
- English is in 3 lines
- With 5 – 7 – 5 beats
- No need to rhyme
- Capturing a MOMENT or ESSENCE of your topic

Author: [Matsuo Basho](#)

[Japanese]

閑けさや 岩にしみいる 蝉の声

Shizukesa ya/ Iwa ni shimiiru/ Semi no koe

[English]

Oh, tranquility!

5 beats

Penetrating the very rock,

7 beats

A cicada's voice.

5 beats

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough

ChatGPT's

SAVANNA

by Celia & ChatGPT

Red earth breathes the heat,
spinifex hums in dry winds —
sky stretches, unbroken.

1. Quite pleased 6/10
2. No editing
3. Simple
4. Yes

Celia's

SAVANNA by Celia

Scorched savanna grass
waits for monsoon's gushing rains -
instead, lightning's flash.



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What will you choose? Some examples & clues!

- Explore [Flora of Australia Facts for Kids](#) for some new ideas.
- Share biology from your own backyard.
- From tiny seeds to gigantic trees!
- Include things that help plants thrive, from bees to cassowaries; fungi to dung.
- Or simply describe a beautiful flower.

Here are my **human-made**
Science Rhymes examples:

1. **STURDY MULGA TREES**
2. **CAPE TRIBULATION**
3. **KNOW YOUR EUCALYPTS**
4. **MALLEE REVIVAL**
5. **GHOST TREE**
6. **VEXING VEGGIES**

1.

Stretching up towards the skies
or weeping boughs drawn by their
sides,
iconic mulga, drab and droll,
still represent Australia's soul.

In sunburnt soils on arid lands,
with long strong roots, the mulga
stands.

High heat; cold nights are mulga's fate.
In drought these trees can hibernate.

Their rugged bark with groovy tracks
can channel drips down trunks of
black.

Instead of leaves, they've phyllodes.
Flattened stems that clatter breeze.

Mulga blossoms, tassled gold,
are quick to let sweet-scents unfold.
Flowering not for Spring, but rain.
Should water kiss their harsh terrain.

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STURDY MULGA TREES

by Celia Berrell



[The Scottish Poetry Library](#)

2.

Cape Tribulation
is rainforest splendour;
laced with fine beaches
and touched by the reef.

Butterflies wafting
through lofty green arbours;
birdsongs that echo
through thick jungle leaf.



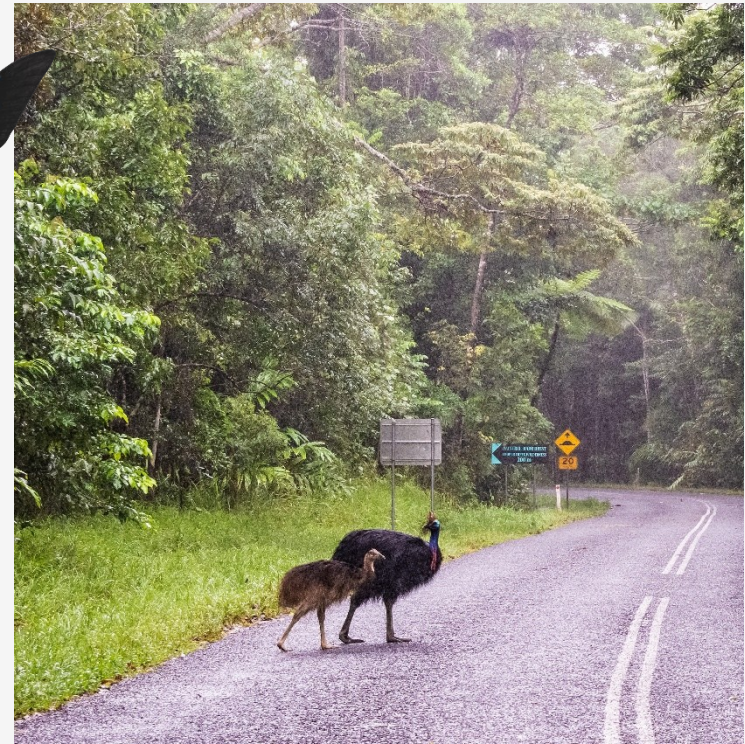
Treasure the moments
of rustling noises
as rainforest natives
come wandering by.

Daytime or night-time
the forest amazes;
its freshness and beauty
will capture your sigh.

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CAPE TRIBULATION

by Celia Berrell



Seeds to Scenery / National Science Week 2026
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3.

Red gum; snow gum
mountain ash and ghost gum.
Smooth bark; rough bark
stringy bark and ironbark.

Eucalypts are Aussie trees
with properties to fight disease.
Their slender crescent lolling leaves
will sigh upon a lazy breeze.

But just one thing we must refute:
although a “gumnut”
sounds quite cute,
these trees have seeds
in hardened suits.

They DON'T have nuts.
These trees have FRUIT!

KNOW YOUR EUCALYPTS

by Celia Berrell



[Australian Children's Poetry](#)

4.

Some eucalypts on desert scrub politely share the skies, creating lairs of dappled shade where spinifex resides.

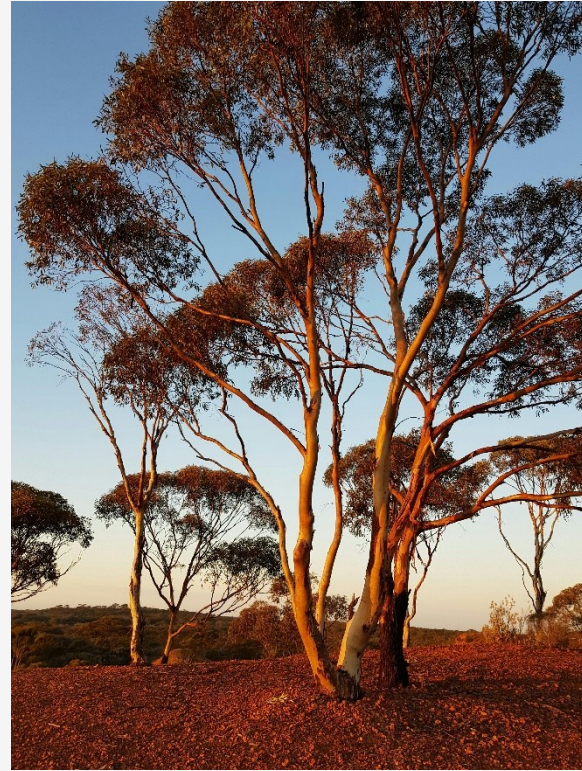
These mallee trees, like brollies with their flattened canopies, have many splaying slender trunks at varying degrees.

Their knobbly base, a lignotuber, helps them to survive, should bushfire kill above the ground, that mallee's still alive.

Stored inside its bulbous base, emergency supplies!
Water, food will grow new stems.
Our mallee tree revives.

MALLEE REVIVAL

by Celia Berrell



5.

Somewhere
in the forest tall
an old tree died,
but didn't fall.

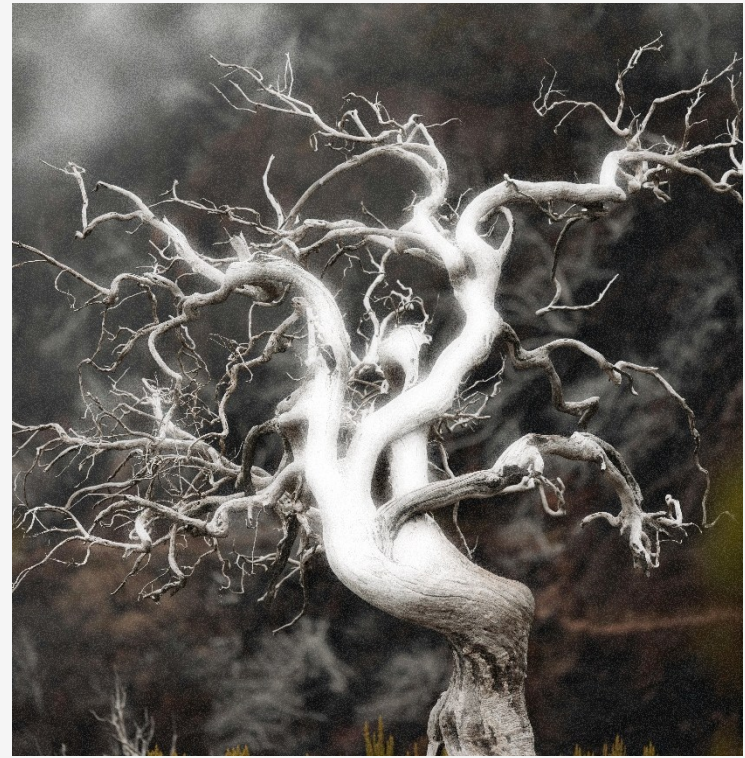
And mosses,
lichen, fungi, moulds,
all came along
and took a hold.

Now mystically
it stands alight –
a ghost tree
glowing in the night.

Its fungal luminosity,
an eerie silent majesty.

GHOST TREE

by Celia Berrell



6.

Insecticides and pesticides.
To use or not? Can you decide?

Without their use, a farmer's crop
won't grow as well. Supply will drop.

Organic fields have lower yields
so take more land to grow our meals,

which means less space for all the trees
and other plants our planet needs.

We want to balance "wild" and "farm"
while minimising poison's harm.

Let's care for Earth's plants properly
and DON'T waste yummy broccoli!

VEXING VEGGIES

by Celia Berrell



[Australian Children's Poetry](#)

Email your poem by Friday 31st July to:
feedback@sciencerrhymes.com.au

- If you used ChatGPT or equivalent, write “by [your name] & [ChatGPT]”.
- Rhyming poems up to 4 verses are ideal.
- School students: please provide an adult email address for replies.
- Check your poem for scientific accuracy before sending.
- Some editing may be offered in order to publish your poem.

**Your successful poems
will feature on the**

AUSSIE

FLORA-VERSE

**a Science Rhymes blog for
NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2026
15th to 23rd August**

www.sciencerhymes.com.au