



AUSTRALIAN NETWORK for PLANT CONSERVATION

MEDIA RELEASE

5 September 2012

21 of Australia's most threatened plants

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) is celebrating 21 years of promoting and developing plant conservation. To mark the occasion the not-for-profit organisation has released a list of 21 of Australia's most threatened plants.

The list of 21 plants facing extinction is being launched on National Threatened Species Day. National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September each year - commemorating the death of the last Tasmanian tiger at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Project Manager, Tricia Hogbin, says that National Threatened Species Day aims to raise awareness of the plight of threatened species and to encourage community involvement in their conservation.

"The general public is typically aware that many of Australia's animals, like the Tasmanian Devil and the Hairy-nosed Wombat, are threatened with extinction. But they are often not aware that hundreds of Australian plant species are facing extinction"

"More than 40 Australian Plant Species have become extinct since European settlement and over 1000 species are currently considered likely to become extinct within our lifetime unless something is done to reverse their decline." said Dr Hogbin.

"The list of 21 threatened plants represents just a fraction of all the plants facing extinction. However, they do illustrate the range of threats to Australia's unique flora, including habitat destruction and degradation, impacts of introduced invasive species, and disease."

"The list also provides insight into the actions that are being undertaken across Australia to prevent extinction. Actions include habitat rehabilitation and protection, threat mitigation, survey, community education, ex-situ conservation and translocation" Dr Hogbin said.

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) is a national non-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to the promotion and development of plant conservation in Australia.

ANPC is hosting its 9th National Conference entitled Plant Conservation in Australia - Achievements and Future Directions 29 October to Friday 2 November 2012 in Canberra.

Held in partnership with the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the ANPC National Conference will bring together people involved in plant conservation from around the country and will provide a significant networking opportunity for participants.

“This is a very exciting time for us. Not only are we celebrating our 21st birthday but we’re bringing together many people with a passion, dedication and vision for plant conservation in Australia to discuss, collaborate and share ideas for the future,” ANPC President David Coates said.

“We will be reviewing and highlighting achievements over the last two decades, highlighting current issues and identifying plant conservation directions in Australia for the coming decades. I think the participants will get a lot out of this conference.” Said Dr Coates.

For further information about the conference or plant conservation in Australia, visit the ANPC website www.anpc.asn.au

THE ILLUSTRATED LIST OF AUSTRALIA’S 21 MOST THREATENED PLANTS can be found at www.anpc.asn.au/21threatenedplants.html. Make sure you click on ‘show info’ to see the text.

HIGHER RESOLUTION IMAGES FOR MEDIA USE can be found at the ANPC Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/anpc/>).

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