**November Plant Cuttings**

[**Prioritizing where to restore Earth’s ecosystems –** Simon Ferrier, Nature 14 October 2020](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02750-2)

Targets for ecosystem restoration are usually specified in terms of the total area to be restored. A global analysis reveals that the benefits and costs of achieving such targets depend greatly on where this restoration occurs. [Continue reading.](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02750-2)

[**To save threatened plants and animals, restore habitat on farms, ranches and other working lands –** The Conversation, 29 October 2020](https://theconversation.com/to-save-threatened-plants-and-animals-restore-habitat-on-farms-ranches-and-other-working-lands-148523)

Restoring native habitats to at least 20% of the world’s land currently being used by humans for farming, ranching and forestry is necessary to protect biodiversity and slow species loss, according to a [newly published study conducted by a team of environmental scientists](https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12773) including us. Our analysis found that this can be done in ways that [minimize trade-offs](https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12773) and could even [make farms more productive](https://www.farmprogress.com/conservation/prairie-strips-interest-strong-and-growing) by helping to control pests, enhancing crop pollination and preventing losses of nutrients and water from soil. [Continue reading.](https://theconversation.com/to-save-threatened-plants-and-animals-restore-habitat-on-farms-ranches-and-other-working-lands-148523)

[**Supporting Indigenous Research** – media release by Minister for Education Dan Tehan, 3 November 2020](https://www.arc.gov.au/news-publications/media/media-releases/supporting-indigenous-research)

The Morrison Government is funding university research to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians while providing leadership and training opportunities to Indigenous researchers. Minister for Education Dan Tehan announced $7.1 million for nine new research projects through the Australian Research Council (ARC) *Discovery Indigenous*scheme. [Continue reading.](https://www.arc.gov.au/news-publications/media/media-releases/supporting-indigenous-research)

[**Citizen Orchid –** Gardening Australia film clip, 6 November 2020](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/citizen-orchid/12848698)

Orchids are one of the largest plant families on earth with thousands of species, and Australia has some of the rarest ones. Sophie meets orchid expert’s Dr Robert and Rosalie Lawrence for a careful walk to find some orchids in remnant bushland outside of Adelaide. [Watch here.](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/citizen-orchid/12848698)

[**Monitoring ecosystems after intense fires –** The Science Show, 7 November 2020](https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/monitoring-ecosystems-after-intense-fires/12855816)

The fires in eastern Australia over the summer of 2019 and 2020 were widespread and severe. So how have ecosystems been affected? Peter Hadfield joined ecologists and locals with knowledge of flora and fauna inspecting forests recently burnt by fire. As ecologist Chris Dickman explains, while Australian species are adapted to fire, the intensity of recent fires will likely lead to permanent changes in ecosystems and could even lead to collapse with eucalypt forests replaced by other ecosystem types. [Listen here.](https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/monitoring-ecosystems-after-intense-fires/12855816)

[**Australian researchers find native grasses could be grown for mass consumption –** Lorena Allam, The Guardian, 10 November 2020](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/nov/10/australian-researchers-find-native-grasses-could-be-grown-for-human-consumption)

Native grasses could be grown for mass consumption, a one-year feasibility study has found, after researchers tested 15 different species “from paddock to plate” in north-west [New South Wales](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/new-south-wales). [Continue reading.](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/nov/10/australian-researchers-find-native-grasses-could-be-grown-for-human-consumption)

[**Captain Cook used a native Australian plant to fight scurvy. Are Indigenous foods the future?** - Emma Rennie, ABC, 12 November 2020](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-12/australian-food-indigenous-herbs-school-cooking-programs/12860554)

Juru and Kanaka man Gerald Power often hears from people that food eaten by First Nations people in the tens of thousands of years before colonisation did not have much seasoning. It is a myth he is keen to correct. Mr Power cultivates many edible native plants, including bush basil, curry myrtle and river mint, in a community garden in Orange, in central-western NSW. [Continue reading.](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-12/australian-food-indigenous-herbs-school-cooking-programs/12860554)

[**Tree collecting is becoming a conservation mission with plenty eager to sign up** – Megan Backhouse, The Sydney Morning Herald, 13 November 2020](https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/tree-collecting-is-becoming-a-conservation-mission-with-plenty-eager-to-sign-up-20201106-p56c62.html)

Of all the things you might amass, trees would have to be one of the most unwieldy. They take up space and they soak up time. It's not a pursuit for the restless. [Continue reading.](https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/tree-collecting-is-becoming-a-conservation-mission-with-plenty-eager-to-sign-up-20201106-p56c62.html)

**[Future Forests](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/future-forests/12904494?fbclid=IwAR1pMzpl-GKR_76d6UCpBPZZhjBPJ0hrEbTK2JD4zZA-qonpISYts3H5Tfc)** [– Gardening Australia film clip](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/future-forests/12904494?fbclid=IwAR1pMzpl-GKR_76d6UCpBPZZhjBPJ0hrEbTK2JD4zZA-qonpISYts3H5Tfc)**[,](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/future-forests/12904494?fbclid=IwAR1pMzpl-GKR_76d6UCpBPZZhjBPJ0hrEbTK2JD4zZA-qonpISYts3H5Tfc)** [20 November 2020](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/future-forests/12904494?fbclid=IwAR1pMzpl-GKR_76d6UCpBPZZhjBPJ0hrEbTK2JD4zZA-qonpISYts3H5Tfc)

In this snippet from episode 36 (series 31) of Gardening Australia Josh explores how an Urban Forest Strategy developed by community volunteers is successfully bringing nature into the city. If you look closely you will catch FloraBank project manager Dr Lucy Commander planting seedlings in the background. [Watch here.](https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/future-forests/12904494?fbclid=IwAR1pMzpl-GKR_76d6UCpBPZZhjBPJ0hrEbTK2JD4zZA-qonpISYts3H5Tfc)

[**'The power of the earth': Bruce Pascoe on grass and fire -** Miki Perkins, The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 November 2020](https://www.smh.com.au/national/victoria/the-power-of-the-earth-bruce-pascoe-on-grass-and-fire-20201119-p56fxx.html)

The name for this grass in the Yuin language is mandadyan nalluk – "dancing grass" – and it is almost ready for harvest on this 56-hectare property owned by Bruce Pascoe, the author of the award-winning *Dark Emu*. [Continue reading.](https://www.smh.com.au/national/victoria/the-power-of-the-earth-bruce-pascoe-on-grass-and-fire-20201119-p56fxx.html)

[**Denmark locals mourn loss of decades-old fig tree bulldozed by developer on WA's south coast –** Toby Hussey, ABC, 21 November 2020](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-19/frustration-over-fairy-world-fig-tree-loss-in-denmark/12899600#:~:text=Residents%20in%20Denmark%2C%20a%20town,a%20former%20historic%20tourist%20area.)

Members of a small town on Western Australia's south coast are mourning the felling of a tree they say had been a part of their community for generations. Residents in Denmark, a town of fewer than 3,000 in the Great Southern region, are said to have been shocked after the developer LWP demolished, without warning, an allegedly decades-old fig tree on the site of a former historic tourist area. [Continue reading](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-19/frustration-over-fairy-world-fig-tree-loss-in-denmark/12899600#:~:text=Residents%20in%20Denmark%2C%20a%20town,a%20former%20historic%20tourist%20area.).

[**Milton farmers help conserve rare subtropical rainforest on New South Wales south coast** – Ainslie Drewitt Smith, ABC, 22 November 2020](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-20/efforts-underway-to-conserve-rare-rainforest-milton-nsw/12900126)

Thousands of trees are being planted at Milton on the New South Wales south coast in a bid to expand and conserve a rare patch of subtropical rainforest. [Continue reading.](file:///H:\ANPC\Website\Thousands%20of%20trees%20are%20being%20planted%20at%20Milton%20on%20the%20New%20South%20Wales%20south%20coast%20in%20a%20bid%20to%20expand%20and%20conserve%20a%20rare%20patch%20of%20subtropical%20rainforest)

[**Argyle diamond mine's traditional owners turn to native seeds in bid to restore country** – Courtney Fowler, ABC, 23 November 2020](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-11-21/argyle-mine-transitioning-from-pink-diamonds-to-native-seed/12902012?fbclid=IwAR1kEsn6hWf6Qemp7W6tWGV9ZqCjytFXziTOdyN4fbGqeYqMK1MZY2tOpmk)

The closure and rehabilitation of Australia's most famous diamond mine is being seen as an opportunity for traditional owners to reconnect with country and grow an exciting new business venture in the remote East Kimberley. [Continue reading.](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-11-21/argyle-mine-transitioning-from-pink-diamonds-to-native-seed/12902012?fbclid=IwAR1kEsn6hWf6Qemp7W6tWGV9ZqCjytFXziTOdyN4fbGqeYqMK1MZY2tOpmk)

**Events and opportunities**

**Val Williams scholarship – Australian Plants Society NSW (closes 5 March 2021)**

The North Shore Group of the Australian Plants Society NSW is offering the 13th Annual Val Williams Scholarship in Botany. The scholarship provides $3000 to a student studying an Honours, Masters or PhD degree. The project must contribute to the knowledge of the ecology, conservation, or propagation of native plants in the Sydney and surrounding region\*\*; must be carried out within this region; and the applicant must be attached to an Australian research institute. Closing date for applications is Friday 5 March 2021. For more information please email [scholarship@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:scholarship@blandfordia.org.au)

**Annual Conference – Ecological Society of Australia (30 November – 4 December 2020)**

The Ecological Society of Australia has moved their annual conference online. Titled ‘ESA2020: Understanding Ecological Extremes – Mechanisms of Resilience and Recovery’ the conference will explore our understanding of extreme events and their impacts on species, communities and ecosystems. To view the full program or register visit <https://www.esa2020.org.au/>

**Managing weeds after fire – SWIFFT webinar series [Wednesdays until 16 Dec + recordings]**

There’s a new webinar series starting this week on managing weeds after fire. Every Wednesday for the next 4 weeks a free webinar will be held on the topic. To register or find out where to see recordings head to the SWIFFT (State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams) website <https://www.swifft.net.au/cb_pages/weed_management_after_fire_-_webinar_series.php>

**Landcare checks in – WA Landcare network [ongoing + recordings]**

This fortnightly webinar series offers an online opportunity for landcarers to come together to chat about landcare issues. Zoom sessions re on Monday from 2-3pm, you can register or watch recordings here <http://www.landcarewa.org.au/resources/landcare-checks-in-online-chat-about-landcare/>

**Ecosystem Observations – TERN seminar series [recordings]**

The latest seminar in this series was titled ‘*Standardising environmental information collection: harmonising Australia’s approaches‘*. To watch the recording or previous seminars head to <https://www.tern.org.au/events/#archive>