**Plant Cuttings – February 2021**

# Rodent eradication gives Lord Howe biodiversity boom – NSW Government media release, 1 February 2021 Lord Howe Island’s natural environment is booming following the successful completion of one of the world’s largest rodent eradication programs. In just over eighteen months the $15.5 million program has all but wiped out an estimated 300,000 plus rodents and other feral pests giving the island’s native plants and animals a fighting chance at revival. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/rodent-eradication-gives-lord-howe-biodiversity-boom?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news>

**Threatened plant survives Kangaroo Island fire – The Islander, 3 February 2021**  
Scientists and volunteers have discovered three new patches of an extremely rare plant on Kangaroo Island, doubling the number of known populations. Botanist Dr Rick Davies said the plant, broad-leaved woodruff (*Asperula tetraphylla*), only occurs in south western Kangaroo Island, in areas severely burnt out by the summer 2019-20 bushfires. <https://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/7109156/threatened-plant-survives-kangaroo-island-fire/>

**Kangaroo overgrazing could be jeopardising land conservation, study finds – UNSW Sydney Newsroom, 4 February 2021**

The native species has reached numbers that are contributing to drier soil and less vegetation – and may be more damaging to conservation areas than rabbits. But a collaborative study led by UNSW Sydney found that conservation reserves are showing signs of kangaroo overgrazing – that is, intensive grazing that negatively impacts the health and biodiversity of the land. <https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/science-tech/kangaroo-overgrazing-could-be-jeopardising-land-conservation-study-finds>

# Could native crop, kangaroo grass, become a regular ingredient in bread and help farmers regenerate land? – ABC News, 8 February 2021 A native grass once harvested by Indigenous people, but these days more often overlooked as a roadside weed, could form the solution to restoring land exhausted by farming, researchers say. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-08/kangaroo-grass-quest-as-the-next-super-crop/13132462>

# One Tree Per Child needs more locations to plant trees – Greater Shepparton, 9 February 2021

# Greater Shepparton City Council is currently seeking interest from residents to participate in the One Tree Per Child Project, by identifying suitably available roadside reserve areas with the capacity for planting local native indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses. <https://greatershepparton.com.au/whats-happening/news/news-article/!/456/post/one-tree-per-child-needs-more-locations-to-plant-trees?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news>

**Canberra research giving flora and fauna a fighting chance – The RIOTACT, 14 February 2021**

A Canberra biotechnology company that specialises in the genetic screening of plants and animals is behind a $3 million investment in technology that will turbocharge the understanding of events such as bushfires and climate change on flora and fauna by accessing data from around the world that would otherwise be lost. <https://the-riotact.com/canberra-research-giving-flora-and-fauna-a-fighting-chance/438259>

**Plants most at risk after black summer megafires – CSIRO press release, 15 February 2021**

While the prospects of recovery for most appear to be good, some species remain vulnerable, according to research published by Australia’s national science agency, CSIRO, and the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research. The researchers compared remotely sensed satellite fire hotspot data with records of plant occurrence from herbarium collections to discover the plant species and ecosystems impacted in the burnt areas. <https://www.csiro.au/en/News/News-releases/2021/Plants-most-at-risk-after-black-summer-megafires?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news>

# Volunteers and experts work to remove invasive threat – The Islander, 15 February 2021

# Teams of volunteers have removed 80,000 seedlings along Kangaroo Island's West End Highway in an effort to help minimise the threat of the Tasmanian blue gum and are now looking to assist private land owners. <https://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/7126963/volunteers-and-experts-work-to-remove-invasive-threat/?src=rss>

# Brisbane beekeeper creates editable map to track African tulip trees killing native stingless bees – ABC News, 18 February 2021 A Brisbane beekeeper has created a map for the public to locate African tulip trees in a bid to weed out the plant, which kills native bees. The tree is native to tropical Africa but was once planted as a street tree and garden tree, and while regarded for its red flowers, it is a serious weed which is toxic to native stingless bees and crowds out native vegetation. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-17/beekeper-creates-tree-map-to-save-native-bees/13156240>

# Orchids and wallabies: Conservation program to protect ACT’s threatened species – Canberra Weekly, 19 February 2021

# The Brindabella midge orchid, a rather dowdy plant, may not be as beautiful as the Japanese white egret or the Central American dove orchids, as unusual as the laughing bumblebee or as risqué as the naked man – but it is one of the rarest flowers in the world, found only in a single location in Namadgi National Park. <https://canberraweekly.com.au/orchids-and-wallabies-conservation-program-to-protect-acts-threatened-species/>

# Deadly fungus, poison fire coral, sighted near Cairns, prompting warning for bushwalkers – ABC News, 20 February 2021 The world's second-deadliest fungus has been spotted growing near a popular hiking trail near Cairns, prompting a warning to bushwalkers. Poison fire coral was [first recorded in Cairns in October 2019](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-03/deadly-fungi-poison-fire-coral-found-in-far-north-qld/11571162), and if ingested, can cause the brain to shrink, skin delamination, and even death. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-19/deadly-fungus-poison-fire-coral-warning-for-bushwalkers/13169022>

# Country Breakfast Features – ABC, 20 February 2021

If you like the bush and you're not a big fan of office jobs, I think you're going to be a little envious of Shane Wishart. He spends about half the year wandering through forests in Western Australia's beautiful south west. What's this dream job you ask? Well Shane is a professional seed collector. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/countrybreakfast/cb-features/13170964>

# Bush food, native plant products to be developed by Indigenous community and University of Queensland – ABC News, 21 February 2021 More native bush products could turn up on shelves as Indigenous groups develop new businesses that champion native plants and bush food, in conjunction with the University of Queensland. Dale Chapman, an Indigenous chef and adjunct professor at UQ, is spearheading the project. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-20/bush-food-project-aims-to-get-more-native-plants-in-pantries/13164350>

**Overlooking the grasslands – ABC Radio National, 27 February 2021**

Natural temperate grasslands once spread from the Melbourne to the South Australian border, thriving on the fertile volcanic soils of Victoria's Western plains. But they’ve been in decline from the moment settlers landed and are now critically endangered. The impacts of livestock grazing, cropping and urban sprawl mean about 1% are left. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/overlooking-the-grasslands/13164414>

**Events and Opportunities – February 2021**

**What the Flora?! – New science video series**

The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney are releasing a science video series on plants and flora conservation research. Two episodes are already up on their Youtube channel, watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhhYNOTDS78&list=PLxebOIqQs3h3xD64g7l_F7gChyYj4OQca>

**Stewardship of Country – webinar series (24 Feb, 10 and 24 March)**

The Royal Societies of Australia and Inspiring Victoria are producing a series of three webinars that aim to generate discussion about landscape and environmental stewardship—bridging Indigenous, scientific, economic and social perspectives with ideas that support practical action and public good. For more information and to register for the webinars head to their website. <https://www.scienceaustralia.org.au/news-and-events/stewardship-of-country/>

**Myrtle Rust National Symposium – 23-25 March 2021, Ballina NSW**

The Australian Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation, and partners including the ANPC, are convening a National Myrtle Rust Symposium, everyone welcome. The symposium will be from the 23rd to the 25th of March – a hybrid conference where key stakeholders come together in Ballina (NSW) to work through ways of implementing the *National Action Plan for Myrtle Rust in Australia,* combined with an online event to share the latest research, activities and thinking to a broader audience. Head to the website to find out more <https://consol.eventsair.com/myrtle-rust/rego/Site/Register>

**BOTANIC GARDENer calls for articles and news –deadline 12 April 2021**

The theme of the next issue of The BOTANIC GARDENer is Plant Science: Research in Botanic Gardens. The online BGANZ magazine is seeking articles that ‘pollinate great ideas’, feature articles on the theme and feature gardens and interviews. More information on submissions can be found here <https://files.constantcontact.com/5e0f7c85201/a98d6cab-b6f6-46b0-91be-5fadb5eb7fa6.pdf>. Please contact the Managing Editor at [managing.editor@bganz.org.au](mailto:managing.editor@bganz.org.au) if you are intending to submit an article or have a contribution to other sections.

**Bushfire Conference – 4-6 May 2021 (online)**

The Nature Conservation Council has announced it will hold the 12th Biennial Bushfire Conference online. The conference theme *Cool, Warm, Hot: the burning questions*will explore how different fire intensities can influence ecosystems and communities in a changing climate, with presentations by academics, agencies and practitioners. For the latest updates head to <https://www.nature.org.au/healthy-ecosystems/bushfire-program/bushfire-conference-2021/>

**Society for Ecological Restoration Australia (SERA) conference - May 10-13, Darwin NT**

This year SERA are planning a face-to-face conference with online content that will be held from May 10-13 in Darwin. The theme for the conference is ‘Restoration – Connecting Land, Water, Culture & Environment.’ The call for abstracts is open (closing March 5) and early bird registration closes on 26 March. For more information visit: <https://www.sera2021.org>

**Orchid Conservation Symposium – 22 and 23 June 2021 (online)**

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc., in collaboration with La Trobe University, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and the Botanic Gardens of South Australia are holding a free online orchid conservation symposium in June. To receive future updates please subscribe to the [symposium mailing list.](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Feepurl.com%2Fg_y3jH&data=04%7C01%7Canpcstaff%40environment.gov.au%7C0a67458568144efbb69008d8bdb0157a%7C78f05d85d6b34eeba5c3948d2dcdae8a%7C0%7C0%7C637467911262734550%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=MQCJyVbbEjFzRCLPG29DrIezRPGo9jI%2FbufYtBzCwGM%3D&reserved=0) For more information on the project please [head to our website.](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.anpc.asn.au%2Fprojects%2Fpreventing-extinction-in-bushfire-affected-orchids%2F&data=04%7C01%7Canpcstaff%40environment.gov.au%7C0a67458568144efbb69008d8bdb0157a%7C78f05d85d6b34eeba5c3948d2dcdae8a%7C0%7C0%7C637467911262744542%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xI9aaZFl1XUhsJTYPAuZYkvOu4q0rEARJFB4LTJ0Ss4%3D&reserved=0)

**Combined NSW and VIC Weeds Conference – 23-26 August 2021, Albury NSW**

Jointly supported by the weeds societies of New South Wales and Victoria – weeds without borders, the Conference will be held in the Albury Entertainment Centre from 23-26 August, 2021. The conference will focus on skills development, recognition and has planned four field trips. Early bird registrations open on 22 March 2021. For more information see <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>