**Plant Cuttings – March 2021**

**WA Bush Burn: Finding a balance between prescribed burning and biodiversity – Landline, 21 February 2021**Scientists and community organisations are lobbying the Western Australian government to re-think its policy of planned burning in parts of the state. <https://www.abc.net.au/landline/wa-bush-burn:-finding-a-balance-between-prescribed/13176970>

# The Rare Bloom Project™A partnership to conserve Australian wildflowers – ASBP, 26 February 2021 We are excited to embark on a new collaboration with WWF-Australia and Botanica by Air Wick to deliver The Rare Bloom Project™. This project aims to improve conservation outcomes for 120 Australia’s native wildflowers from fire affected and high-conservation-value areas over the next three years through seed banking, germination research and restoration. <https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/the-rare-bloom-project/>

**Drying without dying – ABC Off Track, 27 February 2021**  
Urban greening takes a tiny turn with moss that just keeps on keeping-on (and cleaning our air). Guests: Alison Haynes, Associate Lecturer & PhD Candidate, University of Wollongong. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/drying-without-dying-moss/13187222>

# Removing deer from Victorian national parks critical to bushfire recovery – Feral Herald, 1 March 2021 Parks Victoria’s removal of deer and other feral animals from some of the state’s most popular national parks restarts on Monday 1 March in the Alpine National Park and is a critical step in helping nature recover from the 2019-20 bushfires. <https://invasives.org.au/blog/removing-deer-from-victorian-national-parks-critical-to-bushfire-recovery/>

# Great Barrier Reef home to giant doughnut-shaped structures with unique animal and plant communities – ABC Science, 2 March 2021 Giant doughnut-shaped limestone mounds sitting in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, called Halimeda bioherms, have been building up on the seafloor off the Australian coast since the last ice age. It turns out the 10,000-year-old domes with sunken centres, which measure up to 300 metres across and 20m tall, host plant and animal communities unique to their surrounding environment. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-03-02/great-barrier-reef-halimeda-bioherms-biodiversity-donut/13196754>

# Leafing through the Botanic Garden’s History – Wollongong City Council, 4 March 2021 The Friends of the Wollongong Botanic Garden will this weekend launch a coffee table-style book that celebrates the 50-year history of the Garden at an exhibition at Old Wollongong Court House from Saturday 6 March. <https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/my-community/news-and-alerts/news/news/march-2021/leafing-through-the-botanic-gardens-history?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news>

# Farmers to get paid for planting trees in new biodiversity pilot – Queensland Country Life, 5 March 2021 Farmers in six regions across the nation will have the opportunity to get paid to plant mixed-species trees on their property, under a new government trial program. <https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/7154195/farmers-to-get-paid-for-planting-trees-in-new-biodiversity-pilot/?cs=4698>

# Dinosaur-era plants flourish in Tasmania's internationally recognised Jurassic garden – ABC Radio Hobart, 6 March 2021 You can't hang out with dinosaurs, but at a unique garden in Tasmania you can wander among the plant species they ate, flew over and trampled underfoot during the Jurassic era. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-06/tasmanian-jurassic-garden-wins-global-genome-grant/13203436>

# Heritage grants assist SA property owners with conservation projects – The Transcontinental, 15 March 2021 Conservation on private land within SA is set to be bolstered by $3 million with the delivery of a Heritage Grants agreement announced this month. The Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program initially seeks to offer property owners up to $10,000 for conservation projects to help better manage their Heritage Agreement areas. Larger grants for between $10,000 and $250,000 are now open for applications closing April 19. <https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/7164422/private-property-native-vegetation-boost/?cs=1538>

# 5 remarkable stories of flora and fauna in the aftermath of Australia’s horror bushfire season – The Conversation , 16 March 2021 [Around one year ago](https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/black-summer-bushfires-nsw-2019-20/), Australia’s Black Summer bushfire season ended, leaving more than [8 million hectares](https://theconversation.com/its-12-months-since-the-last-bushfire-season-began-but-dont-expect-the-same-this-year-139757) across south-east Australia a mix of charcoal, ash and smoke. An [estimated three billion](https://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2020/3-billion-animals-impacted-by-australia-bushfire-crisis#gs.vckp7g) animals were killed or displaced, not including invertebrates. <https://theconversation.com/5-remarkable-stories-of-flora-and-fauna-in-the-aftermath-of-australias-horror-bushfire-season-155749>

# Post-bushfire environmental recovery: citizen scientists capture thousands of observations – UNSW Sydney Newsroom, 17 march 2021 UNSW Sydney researchers have shown how a rapid-response citizen science project can provide data on plant, animal and fungus recovery following the 2019/20 mega-fires. <https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/science-tech/post-bushfire-environmental-recovery-citizen-scientists-capture-thousands>

# Tamar Valley Steiner School secures Landcare grant for native vegetation – The Examiner, 19 March 2021 Nature will reclaim a paddock used for traditional farming practices, all for education. The Tamar Valley Steiner School successfully secured an $11,000 Landcare Grant that will allow them to rehabilitate a paddock adjoining the school to a native food and plant area. <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7167887/how-a-former-farm-paddock-will-teach-children-about-natives/?cs=95>

# How we discovered a hidden world of fungi inside the world’s biggest seed bank – The Conversation, 22 March 2021 This was the moment of truth. We’d spent countless hours meticulously sterilising seeds (1,710, to be specific), filling the lab with a cacophony of rattling as we shook them in bleach. We’d built a fungus city: great tower-blocks of petri dishes stacked on the lab workbenches, with different colours, textures and shapes of fungi all emerging inside. We’d extracted enough DNA that the freezer, stuffed full of tubes, threatened to revolt. <https://theconversation.com/how-we-discovered-a-hidden-world-of-fungi-inside-the-worlds-biggest-seed-bank-156051>

# Perth's verge gardens grow friendships as well as plants, research finds – ABC Radio Perth, 27 March 2021 Verge gardens are springing up on public land outside homes, with surprising benefits, including forming friendships between neighbours. Natasha Pauli, a senior lecturer at the University of Western Australia's school of agriculture and environment, has been researching verge gardens and found the benefits extended well beyond urban greening. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-27/perth-verge-gardens-grow-community-as-well-as-plants/100026918>

# How to tell the new season is starting, according to the Noongar people of WA – ABC News, 27 March 2021 After the blistering heat of summer, many welcomed March 1 as the start of autumn's cooler nights and mild days. In WA's South-West, the local Indigenous people also say a new season is beginning — but not because the calendar has ticked over into March. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-27/indigenous-season-indicators-wa/100029476>

**Events and Opportunities – March 2021**

**2021 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series (15 April)**

The registration page is now open for the 2021 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series – Knock Knock, Who's there? Drawing attention to our most unwanted visitors. The series of 7 monthly webinars will focus on the recently released National Priority List of Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Diseases. Each webinar will be 90 minutes, including 3 speakers and 30 minutes of facilitated discussion. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/knock-knock-whos-there-drawing-attention-to-our-most-unwanted-visitors-tickets-145807563347>

**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/>