**Plant Cuttings – April 2021**

**Open for comment – proposed listing for Lowland Tropical Rainforest**
The national Threatened Species Scientific Committee and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment are inviting comments on a proposed listing for a nationally threatened ecological community (Lowland Tropical Rainforest) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The Committee particularly seeks comments on whether the Lowland Tropical Rainforest of the Wet Tropics Bioregion is eligible for listing under the proposed conservation status, but also invites other relevant comments and information. Closing date Wednesday 19 May 2021.See the website for more information: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/lowland-tropical-rainforest-wet-tropics-bioregion>

# Kings Park Conservation – ABC Gardening Australia, 9 April 2021Western Australia is home to more than 8,000 known plants and the south-west of the state is recognized as a biodiversity hotspot. More than half of WA’s plants grow nowhere else on earth, and Kings Park, Perth, has a number of display beds to showcase them, especially the many that are becoming rare or threatened in the wild. https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/kings-park-conservation/13290882

# Citrus canker plant disease gone from Australia after NT eradication, ABC, 12 April 2021Citrus canker has officially been eradicated from Australia, three years after the plant disease was discovered in the Northern Territory. The bacterial disease causes brown spots to form on citrus fruit, leaves to drop and unripe fruit to fall on the ground, and is easily spread by infected fruit and leaves. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-04-12/citrus-canker-eradicated-from-australia-after-nt-campaign/100064068>

# The wonderful world of seed banks – Particle, 13 April 2021Seeds – and the plants they grow – are a vital part of WA’s ecosystem. And to protect our vast biodiversity, teams of seed collectors and scientists keep native WA seeds safe in specialised banks around the world. <https://particle.scitech.org.au/earth/the-wonderful-world-of-seed-banks/>

# Albany Royal Botanical Gardens will be 'better than Kings Park' says leading botanist – ABC, 14 April 2021Albany is set to become home to world-class royal botanical gardens that will be the envy of Perth, according to an internationally renowned botanist. The development located in the heart of the south coast city will be the first royal botanical gardens outside of WA's capital. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-14/albany-botanic-gardens-better-than-perth/100066490>

# Plants thrive in a complex world by communicating, sharing resources and transforming their environments – The Conversation, 14 April 2021For other living organisms, social distancing comes more naturally. I am a [plant scientist](https://www.berondamontgomery.com/about-beronda/) and have spent years studying how light cues affect plants, from the very beginning of a plant’s life cycle – the germination of seeds – all the way through to leaf drop or death. In my new book, “[Lessons from Plants](https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674241282),” I explore what we can learn from the environmental tuning of plant behaviors. <https://theconversation.com/plants-thrive-in-a-complex-world-by-communicating-sharing-resources-and-transforming-their-environments-156932>

# New initiatives to help nature in your own backyard – Margaret River Mail, 16 April 2021Residents across the South West Capes region are mobilising as part of a new environmental initiative to help nature in their suburban backyards, bush blocks and rural properties. Nature Conservation Margaret River Region (NCMRR) this week launched its 'For Nature' Landowner Stewardship Program. <https://www.margaretrivermail.com.au/story/7212186/new-initiatives-to-help-nature-in-your-own-backyard/?cs=12>

# One of Australia’s oldest native gardens can be found in suburbia, Brisbane Times, 16 April 2021In 1901 a mercantile broker named John Watson bought 1.4 hectares of land in Balwyn and set about making a garden. Not so unusual, you might think. But Watson approached his horticultural endeavour with unusual zeal. Over two decades, he filled his plot with an ever-expanding array of Australian trees, shrubs and ground covers and then named it Maranoa, after the Maranoa River in Queensland. <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/one-of-australia-s-oldest-native-gardens-can-be-found-in-suburbia-20210409-p57hrc.html>

Local action inspires Nature Conservation Society recovery workshop opportunity on Kangaroo Island – The KI Islander, 16 April 2021
As threatened plants have emerged and grown from the ashes across Kangaroo Island's burnt landscape so too have members of the community interested in the care and conservation of their local environment. This interest has been so high, that the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (NCSSA) has decided to offer free workshops to the community to build people's capacity to tackle nasty weeds and monitor the post-fire recovery of bushland. <https://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/7212104/local-action-inspires-bushland-recovery-workshop-opportunity/?cs=1021>

# Saving the threatened plants and animals of Norfolk Island – ABC The Science Show, 17 April 2021Rats ran riot on Norfolk Island. Now some plants and animals have been saved, having faced the brink of extinction. Mel Wilson and Flossy Sperring tell Pauline Newman about the conservation management strategies in place with some success stories of plants and animals saved from the brink of extinction. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/saving-the-threatened-plants-and-animals-of-norfolk-island/13305514>

# Attack of the alien invaders: pest plants and animals leave a frightening $1.7 trillion bill – The Conversation, 19 April 2021They’re one of the most [damaging environmental forces](http://ipbes.net) on Earth. They’ve colonised pretty much every place humans have set foot on the planet. Yet you might not even know they exist. We’re talking about alien species. Not little green extra-terrestrials, but invasive plants and animals not native to an ecosystem and which become pests. They might be plants from South America, starfish from Africa, insects from Europe or birds from Asia. <https://theconversation.com/attack-of-the-alien-invaders-pest-plants-and-animals-leave-a-frightening-1-7-trillion-bill-158628>

# Around the world in 80 plants – ABC Late night Live, 19 April 2021In a follow up to the highly successful *Around the world in 80 Trees* Jonathan Drori is back with another epic journey - This time his focus is on plants where he tells the stories and history of 80 carefully selected plants in a beautifully illustrated botanical travelogue. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/80-plants_-jon-drori/13308532>

**'Extremely rare' West Australian wildflower appears for the first time in 30 years – ABC, 25 April 2021**
This is the first known photo of a critically endangered wildflower not seen in the wild for more than three decades. The remarkable discovery of the scaevola macrophylla flower, on Western Australia's south coast, is just the fourth recorded sighting of the species in 180 years. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-24/scaevola-macrophylla-wa-wildflower-near-albany/100091714>

**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>

**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>

**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/>