**Plant Cuttings – May 2021**

# Mission to save Sydney’s rarest eucalyptus species from extinction - The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 May 2021 When Steve Douglas was a budding ecology student, a quarter of a century ago, he discovered what turned out to be a new species of tree on a street corner just a few hundred metres from his home in Sydney’s Hills District. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/mission-to-save-sydney-s-rarest-eucalyptus-species-from-extinction-20210505-p57p4h.html>

**Pretty please: How a bias against ugly plants could spell their doom – The Sydney Morning Herald, 11 May 2021**

Imagine you’re a junior ecologist about to embark on a career of research, or a politician about to dole out a wad of conservation cash, would you favour a charismatic species or one that is dull but more worthy of urgent help? <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/pretty-please-how-a-bias-against-ugly-plants-could-spell-their-doom-20210511-p57qrl.html>

**Scientists are more likely to study bold and beautiful blooms, but ugly flowers matter too – The Conversation, 11 May 2021**

**We all love gardens with beautiful flowers and leafy plants, choosing colourful species to plant in and around our homes. Plant scientists, however, may have fallen for the same trick in what they choose to research.** <https://theconversation.com/scientists-are-more-likely-to-study-bold-and-beautiful-blooms-but-ugly-flowers-matter-too-160601>

**A stoush over a fire study and a chilling glimpse of the future – The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 May 2021**

Today, a story about bushfires, the climate crisis, logging, and contested science. It’s an important story, because it tells us about where our changing climate is taking us, and the very difficult choices we now face.<https://www.smh.com.au/national/a-stoush-over-a-fire-study-and-a-chilling-glimpse-of-the-future-20210511-p57qwx.html>

**The race to rescue Australia’s 50 most vulnerable plant species - The Sydney Morning Herald, 13 May 2021**

The top of Mount Bogong in Victoria’s high country isn’t where you’d usually whip out a dustbuster, but senior botanist Neville Walsh has a pragmatic approach to plant conservation tools. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/the-race-to-rescue-australia-s-50-most-vulnerable-plant-species-20210511-p57qwf.html>

# Push to save ancient trees from extinction – ABC, 13 May 2021 Sandalwood trees, while relatively common in parts of Australia, are on the brink of extinction in Victoria due to large-scale clearing. Now, locals in the state's north are stepping up efforts to make sure the trees, some of which are believed to be more than 500 years old, remain protected. <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/adelaide/programs/am/push-to-save-ancient-trees-from-extinction/13342446>

**The 50 beautiful Australian plants at greatest risk of extinction — and how to save them – The Conversation, 13 May 2021**  
As far as odds go, things don’t look promising for the slender-nerved acacia (Acacia leptoneura), a spiky plant with classic yellow-ball wattle flowers. With most of its habitat in Western Australia’s wheat belt cleared for agriculture, it was considered extinct for more than 160 years. <https://theconversation.com/the-50-beautiful-australian-plants-at-greatest-risk-of-extinction-and-how-to-save-them-160362>

**A touch of light: La Nina, government inertia and a tsunami of weeds – Alice Springs News, 16 May 2021**

Alice Springs owes much of its uniqueness to the omnipresent power of nature, but too many of us expect nature to look after itself, to absorb and overcome all the shocks to the system of our unthinking behaviour delivered down the centuries. La Nina’s rainfall bonanza of 2020-21 has a downside that exposes vulnerabilities in the natural environment and a legacy of chronic underspending by Government. <https://alicespringsnews.com.au/2021/05/16/a-touch-of-light-la-nina-government-inertia-and-a-tsunami-of-weeds/>

**Social plants: in the wild, staghorn ferns grow in colonies to improve water storage for all members – The Conversation, 17 May 2021**

Social colonies are nothing new in the animal kingdom. We know bees, ants and termites live in large colonies, divide labour and co-operate to take care of offspring produced by a single queen. <https://theconversation.com/social-plants-in-the-wild-staghorn-ferns-grow-in-colonies-to-improve-water-storage-for-all-members-156377>

**Scientists discover 'remnants of ancient rainforests' in path of Coffs Harbour bypass development – ABC news, 21 May 2021**

Millions of years ago, lush rainforests blanketed the massive Gondwana supercontinent encompassing Australia, Antarctica and South America. From those forests, the first flowering plants evolved. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-21/rare-plant-species-found-near-highway-coffs-harbour-nsw/100149038?utm_campaign=news-article-share-control&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web>

**Highway threat to irreplaceable ancient plants – ABC AM, 21 May 2021**Millions of years ago, the first flowering plants evolved from the flush rainforests that blanketed the massive Gondwana super continent. A tiny patch of descendants from two of those ancient species has just been discovered in New South Wales, but there are concerns about their future. <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/highway-threat-to-irreplaceable-ancient-plants/13353564>

**Easy to plant natives – ABC Saturday Breakfast, 22 May 2021**

Whether you want a conga line of wildlife, or just a butterfly or two, native plant enthusiast Linda Niemann joins Jon Lamb and Deb Tribe with her suggestions on simple ways to add natives to your garden to attract local wildlife. <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/adelaide/programs/saturdaybreakfast/talkback-gardening/13355342>

**Events and Opportunities – May 2021**

**Best Practice in Native Seed Collection Seminar, Perth WA – 17 June 2021**  
Does your group or organisation collect native seed for restoration or rehabilitation projects? Are you up to date with the current guidelines and best practice? On Thursday 17 June join Dr Lucy Commander as she discusses the updated Florabank guidelines for best practice in native seed collection and use. Dr Commander will also give an overview of the Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia (2018). This seminar is presented by Perth NRM's Threatened Ecological Communities program and will take place at Ascot Kayak Club in Perth. To register head to  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BRKDF>

**Orchid Conservation Symposium**   
We are excited to release the program for the free, online Orchid Conservation Symposium. Held over Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 June, the Symposium will feature eighteen speakers from Australia, South Africa, UK and Germany. Download the program pdf here (<https://www.anpc.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Orchid-Symposium-Program-final.pdf>). Registration is essential as there are a limited number of places. Please register now at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQUSD>

**BGCI Webinar Recording**

Botanic Gardens Conservation International held a webinar on May 27, 2021 about increasing native species supply for ecological restoration. You can view the recorded webinar here. Speakers explored methods botanic gardens and botanical institutions are using to increase the availability of native species for ecological restoration, with case studies from Uganda, Hong Kong and Malaysia. <https://www.bgci.org/news-events/bgci-webinar-series-increasing-native-species-supply-for-ecological-restoration/>

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

The 2021 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series – Knock Knock, Who's there? Continues each month with the next live webinar to be held on 3 June 2021. Drawing attention to our most unwanted visitors. You can register for upcoming webinars and view recordings of previous sessions at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/knock-knock-whos-there-drawing-attention-to-our-most-unwanted-visitors-tickets-145807563347>

**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 are open until 23 July 2021. For more information see <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>

**APCC13**  
Save the date for the 13th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference  
(APCC13) to be held in Albury, NSW, 19-23 April 2022. <https://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/apcc13/>