**Plant cuttings – October 2021**

# How drones are helping our threatened plants – NZ Department of Conservation blog, 30 Sept 2021

Funding in Budget 2018 has opened a new frontier of drone technology for use in threatened plant conservation. “Zoom in!” – “Zoom in harder!” – “Yes! There! It is one! We’ve got one!” Jan is glued to the screen. And she is ecstatic. She has just found the proverbial needle in the haystack – a tiny little plant, no larger than a 10-cent piece, growing high up on a large, vertical cliff.

<https://blog.doc.govt.nz/2021/09/30/how-drones-are-helping-our-threatened-plants/>

# Most of Australia’s threatened plants aren’t being monitored, increasing the risk of extinctions – Threatened Species Recovery Hub, 22 July 2021

# Most of Australia’s threatened plants aren’t being monitored, increasing the risk of extinctions. Almost two-thirds (63%) of threatened Australian plants are not receiving any monitoring according to a recent national assessment published in [Biological Conservation](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320721002457).This puts these species at much greater risk of ongoing declines and extinctions according to the lead author of the study Dr Tyrone Lavery from The Australian National University.

<https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news-and-media/media-releases/most-of-australia-s-threatened-plants-aren-t-being-monitored-increasing-the-risk-of-extinctions>

# Biodiversity depends on pollinators: a first estimate of how many plants rely on animals – The Conversation, 14 October 2021

# The honeybee may be the best-known pollinator of plants, but there are [thousands of pollinator species](https://discoverpollinators.org/author/dmartins/), including other bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies and even some birds and mammals. Pollinators help to produce food – their contribution to crops is worth [billions of dollars](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921800916301331?casa_token=3rcmlYVeJs4AAAAA:G3cnh60wk8RrmwO22P5eLzSVwZnFDhPUidRIf9ftHsvFU6BFDT7mYmZAELgcfqMD1YS6JxEuwN4). But they are also essential for the reproduction of plants generally, and thus for biodiversity. <https://theconversation.com/biodiversity-depends-on-pollinators-a-first-estimate-of-how-many-plants-rely-on-animals-166908>

# Kew's Science Strategy

The [Kew Science Strategy 2021 – 2025](https://www.kew.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/RBG%20Kew%20Science%20Strategy%202021-2025%20%285%29.pdf) outlines an ambitious plan to help stop biodiversity loss and discover sustainable nature-based solutions to some of the biggest global challenges.

<https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/publications-and-reports/science-reports/kew-science-strategy?utm_campaign=961838_Science%20-%20Kew%20Science%20Strategy%20011021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Kew&utm_content=ScienceStrategyText011021&dm_i=4THF,KM5Q,4AM8SC,2GSO9,1>

**Australia’s 100 Priority Species – DAWE 22 October 2021**

From the Quokka, Green Sea Turtle, the Australian Sea Lion, the Greater Bilby, the Koala to the Orange-Bellied Parrot, the Morrison Government has announced 100 Priority Species that will be the focus of further conservation efforts under its 10-year Threatened Species Strategy, and an immediate $10 million in community grants for on ground activities. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australias-100-priority-species?fbclid=IwAR1khxsnj0hnQS86tKAqEZm5kzrbWAH-5PpVD0MKL8NdM9e28vDTFDMctP4>

# World's smallest wattle plant found blooming on K'gari (Fraser Island) a year after bushfire – ABC News, 23 October 2021

# The world's smallest wattle plant has been found blooming in the bushfire-scorched grounds of K'gari (Fraser Island), with experts saying it shows the island is in full recovery mode. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers were amazed to find the miniature bright yellow flowers of the *Acacia baueri*, a threatened species commonly known as the tiny wattle, during recent surveys of areas affected by fire a year ago. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-23/worlds-smallest-wattle-survives-kgari-fraser-island-bushfire/100556326>

# Scientists scour Australian rivers in canoes looking for new varieties of taro, the 'food of the gods' that's threatened by climate change – ABC News, 24 October 2021

# A team of Queensland scientists have traded their lab coats for paddles and canoes, as they scour the Brisbane River in search of "the food of the gods". They're hunting for new varieties of taro – a starchy vegetable crop – that could help improve food security in the Pacific. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-24/scientists-canoes-taro-food-of-gods-climate-change/100556014>

# Ground-breaking project first step on path to restore Norfolk Island – Invasive Species Council, 27 October 2021

# A clear picture of what Norfolk Island looked like before European arrival has emerged from a project that has, for the first time ever, mapped native vegetation across the entire island, as it exists now and before 1750. <https://invasives.org.au/media-releases/ground-breaking-project-first-step-on-path-to-restore-norfolk-island/>

**Events and Opportunities**

Proposed changes to conservation planning decisions - have your say

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is working with the independent Threatened Species Scientific Committee to review previous recovery plan decisions to ensure that the most appropriate and effective plans are in place to guide collaborative investment and action, and regulatory decision making, for each listed entity. The proposal relates to the removal of recovery plans and replacing these with conservation advices. The department is seeking your feedback on the proposed changes to the decision for each threatened species or ecological community (‘entities’). Be quick - the initial public consultation period closes Tuesday 2 November 2021. You will find all the relevant information including the list of 28 ecological communities and 157 species (comprising 104 plant, 14 mammal, 19 bird, 3 fish, 3 frog, 6 invertebrate, and 8 reptile species) which are proposed for a subsequent recovery plan decision to not have a plan, on the [Have Your Say consultation pages here.](https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/recovery-plan-decisions) <https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/recovery-plan-decisions>

# DAWE Podcast – Detect and Protect

In addition to the National Biosecurity Series webinars, the department has recently launched Detect and Protect – the new Australian biosecurity podcast. The discussions include the key components of Biosecurity 2030, the significant pest and disease threats facing Australia, how innovation and collaboration is helping strengthen the biosecurity system and the important role of the public in supporting biosecurity. <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/australia/public-awareness/detect-protect>

# NESP Webinar – 9 November 6-6pm

# Webinar 2: Coordinating to protect culture & biodiversity in the heat of wildfires. This webinar brings together perspectives from biodiversity experts, managers and policy makers to discuss what we can learn from these events, and what systems or responses are needed to better protect biodiversity and empower Indigenous leadership in the heat of bushfire events. Register at <https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/events/protecting-biodiversity-and-heritage-from-wildfire-lessons-from-2019-20>

# [DAWE 2021 National Biosecurity Forum - 10 and 11 Nov 2021](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-biosecurity-forum-australian-biosecurity-awards-tickets-178407189707) The National Biosecurity Forum brings together key stakeholders to talk about challenges, opportunities and the innovative approaches to Australia’s biosecurity system. The forum is hosted on behalf of the National Biosecurity Committee. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-biosecurity-forum-australian-biosecurity-awards-tickets-178407189707>

**BCARM Plant Forum - 11 November 1pm AEST**

The Thursday 11th November webinar will have some exciting talks from:

* Amanda Shade from Kings Park on their Myrtle Rust seed collection project
* Matthew Henderson from Cranbourne on the challenges of establishing a subalpine garden
* Ben Dibattista from Dandenong Ranges on his favourite plant (we wonder what it will be)

More info at <https://www.bganz.org.au/bcarm-plant-forum-4/>

**ESA Annual Conference – 22-26 Nov 2021**

The Ecological Society of Australia are holding their 61st annual conference online from Monday 22 – Friday 26 November. The theme for this year’s conference is “Renewal” and will explore relationships with each other as our land recovers from fire, drought and flood. Early bird registrations close on 31 October 2021, keynote speakers have been announced on the website. More details at <https://esa2021.org.au/>

**Australian Society of Plant Scientists conference – 25 Nov 2021**

On Monday 25 November 2021 from 2-4PM AEST the Australian Association of Plant Scientists will be holding a hybrid conference. The conference will cover diverse aspects of plant biology across Australia with in person conference locations in most states and territories. See the website to register. <https://www.asps.org.au/asps21>

**13th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference 'Seeds to recovery'** - **3-7 April 2022, Albury, NSW**  
The themes for the conference are seeds, bushfire recovery, threatened species & communities, and engaging people with conservation & restoration. Partnership opportunities are now available. Please visit the conference webpage for more information <https://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/apcc13/>

**In case you missed it…**

**Millennium Seed Bank Partnership Newsletter**

the international newsletter of the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership has now moved to an online only format. The e-newsletter is published three times a year in March, June and September, starting September 2021. It aims to share up-to-date news and stories from across the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) as well as share information of relevance to the partnership. Sign up here <https://brahmsonline.kew.org/msbp/Samara/ENewsletter>

**BCARM Plant Forum**

On Thursday 9 September the BGANZ Collections and Records Management Group (BCARM) held an online forum. This featured the ANPC’s Project Manager, Amelia Martyn-Yenson speaking about the Germplasm Guidelines update. You can watch the recording here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKchgmxmHSE>

**Australian Biosecurity Webinar Series**

This webinar series covers a range of biosecurity topics, such as Australia’s priority biosecurity risks and how they are being managed, preparedness and response activities, innovation, and collaboration, as well as priorities and challenges for biosecurity. Watch a webinar to hear from government and industry experts about current priorities for our biosecurity work. Watch recordings here <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/australia/public-awareness/webinar-series>

**RIAWA 2021 Seminar “The Revegetation Cycle”**

On 13-14 October in Perth, the Revegetation Industry Association of WA held their 2021 seminar titled “The Revegetation Cycle”. The ANPC's project manager Dr Lucy Commander gave a keynote presentation on the Florabank Guidelines. For presentation recordings see <https://www.riawa.com.au/events/the-revegetation-cycle>