

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.

President's Report 2021

For the Annual General Meeting on 17 November 2021



Australian Network for
Plant Conservation Inc



Image by Joanne Lynch

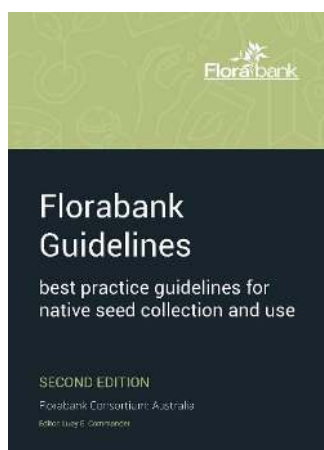
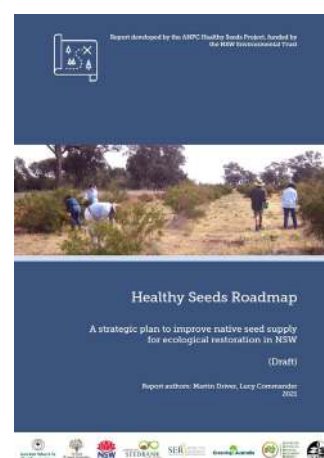
I am very proud to say that 2021, our 30th year, has once again been a highly successful year for the ANPC and our role as Australia's key plant conservation organisation.

In 2021, COVID-19 has again limited our ability to hold face-to-face workshops and conferences. However, like many organisations, we have adapted well to the online space with virtual workshops in their place. The ANPC has fortunately received significant project and grant funding this year to keep us extremely active in the plant conservation sphere, as well as financially viable, and the pandemic has fortunately had little effect on our staffing hours and ability to undertake these projects, as most staff were already working remotely so could continue working in a safe manner.

PROJECTS

Healthy Seeds

This year we have again been busy implementing the Healthy Seeds project, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust which commenced in September 2019. Stage 1 of this project will be completed soon. The draft *Healthy Seeds Roadmap - A strategic plan to improve native seed supply for ecological restoration in NSW* has recently been produced and sets out proposed interventions to secure a reliable, genetically-appropriate, native seed supply in NSW for restoration. A four-page summary of the Roadmap is also available. Extensive consultation with the seed sector fed into the development of the Roadmap, along with the results of The Australian Native Seed Survey Report that we launched in 2020 and an audit we carried out into past and current Seed Production Areas (SPAs) in NSW. A consultation process with various government agencies is currently underway. <https://www.anpc.asn.au/healthy-seeds/>



As part of the Healthy Seeds project, the updated second edition of the *Florabank Guidelines* for best practice native seed collection and use were released in August and are now available for free download from the Florabank website <https://www.florabank.org.au/guidelines>. The Guidelines contain 15 modules which follow the native seed supply chain from collection, through processing to propagation and planting. To better support the whole of the seed supply chain, this update includes additional information on working with Indigenous Australians, approvals, record keeping, and tips for seed purchasers. A large number of experts across the seed sector were consulted and I would like to thank the team of over 40 national and international collaborators who generously

provided their time and expertise to update the Guidelines, and also those who reviewed the content. A draft 'Model Systems for Native Seed' was also developed as part of the Guidelines, which will be a model code of practice for the seed industry. The Florabank Guidelines are essential reading for anyone that works with native seed in any capacity from research to restoration, planting to policy and everything in between. This includes bush regeneration, tree planting, mine rehabilitation and landcare.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/florabank/>

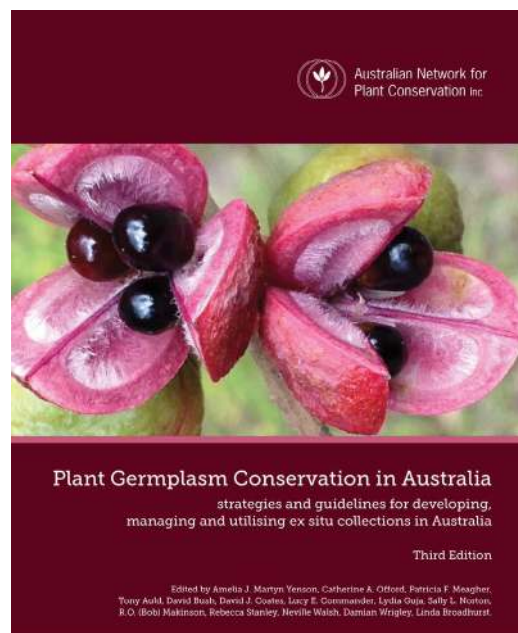
A Consortium of partners from across the native seed and ecological restoration sectors has been overseeing the Healthy Seeds project including Greening Australia, CSIRO, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Sydney, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, the Australian Seed Bank Partnership, and the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia, and we thank them for their time and efforts. The ANPC is also now part of the Florabank Consortium which includes the Australian National Botanic Gardens, CSIRO and Greening Australia.



3rd edition of the Germplasm Guidelines

This year we continued the comprehensive review and update of the ANPC’s Germplasm Guidelines and I am proud to report that the 3rd edition was launched in September by Professor Tim Entwisle at the Australasian Seed Science Conference. *Plant Germplasm Conservation in Australia - strategies and guidelines for developing, managing and utilising ex situ collections* is a joint publication of the ANPC and the Australian Seed Bank Partnership, supported by a grant from The Ian Potter Foundation. These guidelines showcase the latest techniques, literature and procedures for optimising germplasm storage and use, with plenty of infographics, illustrations and photos. They are intended for conservation agencies, scientists, seed banks, botanic gardens, nurseries, students and those interested in applied plant biology. For those who were unable to attend the online launch, the recording of this event is now available on our Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AnpcAsnAu/playlists>



Leading experts in seed banking, living collections, tissue culture and cryopreservation research and practice from across Australia and New Zealand were brought together to review and update the Guidelines. Updated scientific knowledge has been incorporated to ensure that Australia's seed sector has the necessary skills and knowledge to conserve both common and threatened species. I would like to thank the steering committee for their time and the 78 contributors who wrote chapters or one of the fifty case studies in this edition, and others who provided peer review during the process.



Dr Paul Smith, Secretary General, Botanic Gardens Conservation International wrote the foreword for the Germplasm Guidelines and noted: *'This third edition and update of the Guidelines is timely, with significant advances in knowledge gained through research and experience at a time when threats to plant diversity are increasing. The emergence of new pests and diseases, such as Myrtle Rust, the increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires, and recurring extreme weather trends and events are not just confined to Australia. They are a worldwide phenomenon. This gives added urgency to our mission to conserve and manage plants for future generations. Fortunately, we continue to learn from what does and doesn't work and – crucially – to share that learning through publications like this.'*

Over the next eight months, online germplasm webinars and workshops will be held, and training materials developed, to communicate the content of the Guidelines, with formats and times yet to be confirmed.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/plant-germplasm/>

Project Phoenix

The ANPC helped Greening Australia this year reach a huge milestone in Project Phoenix. This project brought the seed sector together to develop the 10-year Native Seed and Landscape Restoration Strategy for Australia. The ANPC participated at Project Phoenix steering committee meetings, reviewed reports and the draft strategy, and wrote three reports which informed the strategy:

- 1/ Successful International Restoration Systems.
- 2/ Making Tracks – Where does the seed come from and where does it go?
- 3/ Snap! A picture of the Australian Seed Sector in 2021

<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/project-phoenix-resources/>



Post-fire funding from San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

This four-year project aims to prevent rare plant extinction and reduce impacts of future fires in eastern Australia. Narrow-range endemics and priority threatened plant species most sensitive to having recovery disrupted by repeated fires in the near future are being identified through field inspections to quantify recovery and identify threats that need amelioration. Working with experts, land managers, indigenous consultants, and fire management authorities, we will assess how fire regimes can impact plant species, while also examining the recovery of targeted species after the 2019-20 wildfires. Local research scientists and contractual field scientists are conducting on the ground assessments that can inform both the habitat-specific recovery actions needed and an assessment of extinction risk. These plant conservation actions align with the recommendations of the Federal Threatened Species Scientific Committee for Post-fire Recovery to: 1) Prevent extinction and limit decline of native species and ecosystems affected by the 2019-20 fires, and 2) Reduce impacts from future fires.



**San Diego Zoo
Wildlife Alliance**

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/prevent-rare-plant-extinction-and-reduce-impacts-of-future-fires/>

Fire and Rust reports released

In cooperation with the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries Queensland and the NSW Department of Primary Industries, extensive surveys assessing the impact of Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) on Myrtaceae species were conducted following the 2019/20 wildfires. The two reports are now available for download from our website and make for sobering reading. Myrtle rust symptoms and damage were found



Myrtle rust surveys post fire. Photo by Geoff Pegg.

in all survey sites in fire-affected areas of south-east Queensland and NSW south to the Central Coast region. New host species have been identified and significant impacts were identified on the endangered *Rhodamnia rubescens* (Scrub turpentine) and *Uromyrtus australis* (Peach myrtle). Myrtle rust symptoms have been observed for the first time on *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt) and *Syncarpia hillii* (Satinay) on World Heritage K'gari (Fraser Island). Regeneration of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Broad-leaved paperbark), particularly in New South Wales, is of concern. *Melaleuca nodosa* (Prickly-leaved paperbark) is highly susceptible to Myrtle rust with only small numbers of trees showing resistance/tolerance to the disease. Longer-term monitoring of all sites is required to understand the impacts of Myrtle rust on Myrtaceae regenerating after wildfire. The ANPC would like to thank the Threatened Species Recovery Hub for funding this project.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/fire-and-rust/>

Plants Going Places

The ANPC received a two-year Biodiversity Conservation grant from the Ross Trust in June 2020. The "Plants Going Places" project aims to educate and inform both environmental scientists and practitioners on the translocation of threatened plants, for the benefit of Victoria's threatened plant species. Two videos have now been produced with accompanying podcasts, with a third currently underway, which explore the stories of past and current translocation projects in the Melbourne region through the eyes of practitioners to investigate what makes a translocation successful. Thanks to our producer Chantelle Doyle and videographer Michael Lawrence-Taylor.



Brian Bainbridge and Michael Longmore examining the wild and translocated population of Murnong with videographer Michael Lawrence-Taylor. Photo by Chantelle Doyle.

The first video features the Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens*) and explores the successes and failures of mitigation translocations when a threatened plant is growing in an intended development location. Do offsets really work? The Spiny Rice-flower is arguably Australia's most salvaged plant and has a few valuable lessons to teach - about ecology, collaboration and open accessibility of knowledge. The second video features Murnong (*Microseris scapigera*) a type of Yam Daisy. For the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other Aboriginal groups in south-eastern Australia, the Murnong has been an important cultural food source for thousands of years. But today only three populations remain in Melbourne.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/plants-going-places/>

In 2022, the project will fund three one-day threatened plant translocation workshops in Melbourne, Ballarat and Bairnsdale. The Melbourne workshop will be held on March 1st at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne. Stay tuned for further details. We appreciate the in-kind support being provided by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Federation University Australia and Greening Australia (Bairnsdale) for these workshops.

Saving threatened orchids from extinction

Since 2017 the ANPC has been working with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV), Friends of the Grampians Gariwerd and the Australasian Native Orchid Society (Victoria Group) Inc. on two orchid conservation projects in western Victoria, to identify pollinators, undertake surveys, hand pollinate, collect seed, propagate seedlings and construct exclusion fencing to protect the plants from grazing kangaroos and rabbits. Both projects culminated in June 2021 with the re-introduction of approximately 50 Audas Spider-orchid (*Caladenia audasii*) and 400 Brilliant Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra mackibbinii*) seedlings. Ten to 15 enthusiastic volunteers helped plant each day to supplement the low numbers of these threatened orchids in the wild. Both projects were funded by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning through their Biodiversity On-ground Action grants.





Volunteers planting *Caladenia audasii* seedlings in June. Photo by Noushka Reiter

https://www.anpc.asn.au/brilliant_sun-orchid/
https://www.anpc.asn.au/audas_spider-orchid/

Banking on Seeds for Bushfire Recovery

The ANPC worked with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP) on the 'Banking on seeds for bushfire recovery' project which aimed to limit the decline of 25 Australian plant species from areas affected by the 2019-2020 bushfires. It included extensive activities in seed collection, reintroductions and germination trials. The ANPC prepared various communication materials to share the findings of this project, including six fact sheets on species that were part of the project, a slideshow, two case study articles published in Australasian Plant Conservation and associated social media posts. Funding for this project was provided by the Australian Government's Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/projects/banking-on-seeds-for-bushfire-recovery/>

<p><i>Olearia flocktoniae</i></p>  <p>CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS FACT SHEET</p>	<p><i>Stylidium tepperianum</i></p>  <p>CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS FACT SHEET</p>	<p><i>Westringia lucida</i></p>  <p>CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS FACT SHEET</p>
<p><i>Callistemon forresteriae</i></p>  <p>CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS FACT SHEET</p>	<p><i>Darwinia squarrosa</i></p>  <p>CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS FACT SHEET</p>	<p><i>Velleia perfoliata</i></p>  <p>CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS FACT SHEET</p>

The Rare Bloom Project™A partnership to conserve Australian wildflowers

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership has embarked 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 of Australia's native wildflowers from fire affected and high-conservation-value areas over the next three years through seed banking, germination research and restoration. The ANPC is collaborating on this project to produce two more Plant Treasures videos, so stay tuned!

<https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/the-rare-bloom-project/>

Preventing extinction in bushfire affected orchids



Caladenia ancylosa (the Genoa spider orchid) one of the species that was part of this project. Photo by Ryan Phillips.

The ANPC was proud to be involved in this project to conserve 14 nationally threatened orchid species across three states affected by the 2019-20 fires at Kangaroo Island, East Gippsland and the Australian Alps. Project leaders Dr Noushka Reiter, Dr Ryan Philips and Dan Duval worked with volunteers and partner organisations to prevent extinction of these species through seed collection, propagation and research on post fire herbivory and reproduction. The ANPC hosted a symposium in June to share the project's results and provide a networking opportunity for the orchid conservation community. Funding for

this project was provided by the Australian Government's Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/projects/preventing-extinction-in-bushfire-affected-orchids/>

Bringing Back the Banksias

This year we finalised our networking and communications role between researchers and practitioners for Stage 2 of the Bringing Back the Banksias project. Funded by the Norman Wettenhall Foundation, this project has enabled further *Banksia marginata* collections to be taken from relict populations or trees from Kangaroo Island, North East Victoria, Southern NSW, Upper Murrumbidgee and New England for analysis in conjunction with the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney 'Restore and Renew' project. Genetic analysis is still to be completed and cross referenced with sub-samples from the previously completed Victorian projects. Once analysis is completed, the findings and implications will be communicated through various avenues.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/banksias/>

SUBMISSIONS

The ANPC provided input into the "Right Plant, Right Way" Victorian Revegetation Review in April, a First Nations led review of revegetation in Victoria. The report, available here <https://www.anpc.asn.au/resources-page/7340-2/>, presents the key findings and includes opportunities to respond to challenges and direction for the future of the sector to heal Country.

The ANPC continued to maintain its strong involvement in The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030 which was launched on World Environment Day, on 5 June. The decade aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems, and restore them. Following a special session on NGOs and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration at the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) Conference this year, we have joined with 13 other Australian environmental organisations to form a consortium that supports the goals of the UN Decade in Australia. The consortium agreement, referred to as the 'Darwin Agreement', was initiated at the SERA2021 conference.

<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

<https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/darwin-agreement-australasian-environmental-organisations-urge-support-of-un-decade-on-ecosystem-restoration/>

The Australian community continues to demonstrate strong interest and support for plant conservation. To meet these expectations the ANPC is playing a key role in facilitating and communicating plant conservation initiatives and information across Australia. This is reflected in the ongoing participation of land managers, government departments, industry, the volunteer conservation movement and the broader community in ANPC workshops and conferences as well as the requests we receive from other organisations and government agencies to participate in and comment on various flora conservation initiatives.

While I continue to be greatly impressed by the dedication and breadth of knowledge of ANPC members, we still face many significant challenges. We need to ensure that we continue to effectively promote the inherent value and cultural significance of our unique and wonderful flora to the broader Australian community and remain true to our core business of facilitating Australian plant conservation, threatened species recovery, ecological restoration and remnant vegetation management.

APCC13 CONFERENCE 'Seeds to recovery'

The 13th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference was originally due to be held in April 2021 in Albury NSW but was postponed due to COVID-19. The conference will now be held in Albury from 3 - 7 April 2022. The themes for the conference are seeds, bushfire recovery, threatened species & communities, and engaging people with conservation & restoration. The Call for Abstracts is now open and Early-bird registrations open soon. Partnership opportunities are now available. I look forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/apcc13/>

I would like to thank the conference organising committee for all their time and work to date on planning what will be an exciting conference: Ros Walls and Rachael Orr (AlburyCity); Phil Falcke (North East CMA); Jim Begley (Goulburn Broken CMA); Jodi Price (Charles Sturt Uni); Damian Wrigley (ASBP); Natasha Lappin (Murray LLS); Singarayer Florentine (Federation Uni); Judy Kirk (Wooragee Landcare); and ANPC staff Martin Driver, Lucy Commander, Amelia Martyn Yenson, Christine Fernance and Jo Lynch.

13th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference
'Seeds to recovery'

**Sun 3 - Thurs 7
APRIL
2022**

More info at www.anpc.asn.au/conferences/apcc13/

WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH

Australian Academy of Science Fenner Conference on the Environment 'Exceptional Times, Exceptional Plants'

Lead authors of the ANPC's Germplasm Guidelines and their collaborators across Australasia came together for this free online workshop held on 9 September 2021 as part of the Australasian Seed Science Conference. The theme of 'Exceptional Times, Exceptional Plants' was relevant to a global audience with attendees registered from 29 countries. Three sessions provided an opportunity to elaborate on research and experience presented in the Guidelines and discuss the challenges of *ex situ* conservation in Australasia. Thank you to the Australian Academy of Science for funding the day and to all the presenters and panellists, as well as the attendees for the excellent questions and discussion. Part 2 of the Fenner Conference will be held in early 2022, with invited attendees drafting a scientific paper to complete the Germplasm Guidelines review process.

<https://seedscience2021.com.au/fenner-conference/>

Recordings of the day's proceedings are now available in a dedicated playlist on the ANPC YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AnpcAsnAu/playlists>



The banner features the Australian Academy of Science logo on the left. The main title reads 'Australian Academy of Science Fenner Conference on the Environment 2021: Exceptional times, exceptional plants'. Below the title, there is a central section with logos for 'The Ian Potter Foundation', 'SEEDBANK', 'Australian National Botanic Gardens', and 'NSW'. To the right of these logos is a yellow box with the text 'THURS 9 SEPT 2021'. On the far right, there is a photograph of a person in a lab coat and mask working in a laboratory. On the left side of the banner, there is a blue box with the text 'This workshop is funded by a grant from the Australian Academy of Science' and a photograph of hands holding seeds. At the bottom, it says 'Free registration at: <https://seedscience2021.com.au/fenner-conference/>'.

Plant Treasures video series

The Ian Potter Foundation grant also provided funding to produce four videos to promote and promulgate the new Germplasm Guidelines and its content. The videos include interviews with chapter authors and footage of *ex situ* conservation processes in action and were produced by Chantelle Doyle and Michael Lawrence-Taylor. The first video, which premiered at the launch of the Guidelines, introduces the Guidelines - why they were updated and what is included in the new edition. Launched at the Fenner Conference, the second video guides viewers to identify non-orthodox seeds and alternatives to seed banking, the third about using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) to identify freezing-sensitive seeds, and the fourth video showcases some light hearted musings from authors of the guidelines. An additional video captures images of Australia's diverse flowers and seeds and featured within the Australasian Seed Science Conference breaks. View the Plant Germplasm Conservation in Australia playlist on the ANPC YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AnpcAsnAu/>



Michael Lawrence-Taylor obtaining video footage in the laboratory at PlantBank in Sydney for the Plant Treasures videos. Photo by Amelia Martyn Yenson.

Orchid Conservation Symposium

The ANPC, in collaboration with La Trobe University, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, hosted a free online symposium on Orchid Conservation on 22 and 23 June which was attended by 575 registrants from across 37 countries. Eighteen speakers from Australia, the UK, South Africa, Germany and Hong Kong shared their research and experiences. Topics included orchid pollination, germination and translocation. We learned about new techniques and technologies including camera traps, as well as illegal orchid harvesting. Over one year since the 2019/20 fires, we heard about the effects of fire on orchid populations. We were treated to stunning photos of orchids across the globe including the Kimberley, where new species are still being discovered. A volunteer's eye view was presented and encouraged people to get involved in orchid conservation in their region. The ANPC would like to thank all the speakers for preparing such interesting talks, to the Australian Government's Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program for funding both this Symposium and the larger project it is part of and the project leads, Ryan Phillips, Noushka Reiter and Dan Duval. Selected presentations from the Symposium are now online.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/projects/preventing-extinction-in-bushfire-affected-orchids/>



Image: Screenshot of day 1 Orchid Conservation Symposium speakers and event coordinators

4 Seasons of Seed workshops

The ANPC ran a free four-part series of workshops this year entitled '4 Seasons of Seed' in collaboration with Murrumbidgee Landcare and Riverina LLS. In February, the theme was seed collection; in April seed germination and propagation of native trees and shrubs of the Riverine Plains, both held in Hay, NSW. The July workshop covered direct seeding and planting, then in November the theme was site management and observing the germination results from the previous workshop, both held on a property at Conargo NSW. Participants' interests included restoration of rare and diminishing species on their own land.



4 Seasons of Seed workshop one on seed collection. Photo 1 by Sally Ware (needlewood seed), Photo 2 by Jade Auldist

Time on Country with Nari Nari Tribal Council

In March, the ANPC was represented at Gavini in southwest NSW with members of the Nari Nari Tribal Council (NNTC) along with members of the Board of Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group and other vegetation experts. The group was On Country to check in on progress over two seasons of property management and refine an earlier revegetation strategy which was outlined during drier conditions, to prepare a seed collection and regeneration strategy.

NNTC conducted trials of different strategies to create seed collection areas and enhance natural regeneration. A highlight was finding a Rosewood tree setting seed.



Jamie with a Rosewood seed at Gavini. Photo by Kathy Ridge.

Other presentations

During the year, Dr Lucy Commander presented on the Florabank Guidelines at:

- Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia conference, Darwin in May, and participated in a special session and panel discussion about the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- National Landcare Conference, Sydney in August.
- Biodiversity Conference 2021, Perth in September.
- RIAWA Seminar, Perth in October 2021.

Dr Amelia Martyn Yenson presented on the Germplasm Guidelines at:

- The BGANZ BCARM Plant Forum in October.
- The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Sydney Science Seminar in November.

Myrtle Rust National Symposium

The Australian Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation and partners, including the ANPC, convened a hybrid National Myrtle Rust Symposium on 23-25 March which brought together key stakeholders in Ballina (NSW) to build a community of interest, share knowledge and build co-ordination and implementation of the National Action Plan for Myrtle Rust in Australia. Presenters shared the latest research, response, surveillance and conservation activity, framed against the Action Plan.

<http://www.apbsf.org.au/myrtle-rust/>

Australian Plant Translocation Database

The ANPC is now hosting the Australian Plant Translocation Database which is available to download for free from the ANPC website. The database was assembled between 2016-2018 by researchers from the National Environmental Science Program's Threatened Species Recovery Hub. This incredible resource contains data on translocations for 379 species from around Australia.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/australian-plant-translocation-database/>

Australian native seed sector publications

The ANPC published two open access articles in the September 2021 edition of Restoration Ecology. These papers highlight the constraints faced by the Australian native seed sector which is critical for restoration. Seed is the key ingredient in restoration work around Australia yet this sector faces numerous challenges. The sector comprises of a small, under resourced workforce who will struggle to meet future demands for seed from wild harvest. Current seed collections are from fragmented land tenures, are seldom quality tested and not sufficient to support large-scale restoration. To understand more about the future of the native seed industry in Australia please read and share these articles:

Article 1 - [Australian native seed sector characteristics and perceptions indicate low capacity for upscaled ecological restoration: insights from the Australian Native Seed Report](#)

Article 2 - [Australian native seed sector practice and behavior could limit ecological restoration success: further insights from the Australian Native Seed Report](#)

Social media

Our outreach efforts continue to expand through social media with the regular sharing of news and events in plant conservation via Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Our monthly email newsletter ANPC e-news was revamped during the year and now reaches 924 subscribers.



Australasian Plant Conservation (APC)

APC, our quarterly bulletin, has continued to publish high-quality articles relevant to a broad range of plant conservation practitioners and managers, under the editorship this year of Heidi Zimmer and assistant editors Nathan Emery and Selga Harrington. This year, APC has featured a wide range of articles on responses to fire and drought, seed orchards, translocation, seed ecology, myrtle rust, fern conservation, orchids, banksias and the Action Plan for Australia's imperilled plants. I would like to sincerely thank Heidi, Nathan and Selga for all their efforts over the past year in ensuring that APC continues to be a quality and well-respected publication communicating Australasian plant conservation issues. Thank you also to the many authors who have contributed to these editions this year. As 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the ANPC, the upcoming Summer edition will celebrate this milestone with articles on the history of the ANPC, members' retrospectives and reflections on plant conservation issues (and changes over the past 30 years) and plant responses to fire as usual, for the Anniversary Edition. Another highlight this year is that back issues of APC are now available for Open Access via the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

<https://www.anpc.asn.au/apc/>



STAFFING

Many thanks to all our staff who work above and beyond the call of duty for the ANPC. Their dedication, advice and support make my role and the work of the Committee much more effective and ensures that the ANPC continues to function as a highly respected conservation organisation. It has been wonderful to see all the results of their excellent work come to fruition in 2021. Fortunately, COVID-19 didn't affect our staff too much again this year, as they were either easily able to, or were already working remotely.

Martin Driver has continued this year in his capacity as the Healthy Seeds Project Manager coordinating and managing the Healthy Seeds project and overseeing the Florabank Guidelines update and development of the Roadmap. He has consulted and liaised with stakeholders, Consortium members, other experts (scientists and practitioners) and community representatives from a range of organisations for project. Martin has also coordinated the Bringing Back the Banksias project and the 4 Seasons of Seeds workshops.





Dr Lucy Commander led the review of the Florabank Guidelines and assisted Martin in the development of the Roadmap and the draft 'Model Systems for Native Seed'. She started planning the three Victorian translocation workshops to be held in 2022. I would also like to acknowledge her outstanding efforts facilitating the online Orchid Symposium. I wish Lucy the very best in her new role at NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub, University of Western Australia.

Dr Amelia Martyn Yenson led the review and launch of the Germplasm Guidelines, and the production of the Plant Treasures videos. I also acknowledge her outstanding efforts facilitating the very successful online Fenner Conference.



Christine Fernance has done a superb job as our Communications Manager this year, managing all the ANPC's social media, ANPC e-news, project promotions, and planning communication strategies for each project and the ANPC.

Our Business Manager, Jo Lynch, has continued her excellent work in the office with successful applications for numerous grants, along with project and budget management. Sincere thanks to our office volunteer Robert Hawes, who has helped enormously with various administrative and financial tasks this year.



I am grateful to all the Committee members for their tremendous support over the year. All the Committee members have significant commitments outside the ANPC, and it is often challenging to devote the time required to be active committee members. The involvement in the committee by all members is a clear demonstration of their dedication to the ANPC and its goals in improving plant conservation.

I would especially like to thank Paul Gibson-Roy and Stephen Bell who are leaving the committee this year, and I sincerely thank them for their time and support.

FUNDING

Our financial situation will be reported on in detail separately at the AGM but our key sources of income this year have included:

- NSW Environmental Trust.
- The Ian Potter Foundation.
- Greening Australia's Project Phoenix.
- NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub.
- Australian Government's Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program.
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
- The Ross Trust
- Victorian Government
- WWF
- Australian Academy of Science.
- Memberships and donations.

The hosting of the ANPC by the Australian National Botanic Gardens remains a crucial support for us, and a major contribution by the ANBG to the national effort for plant conservation. This includes provision of office space, computers, phones, electricity, furniture, and a printer (brand new computers and a printer were supplied this year). I would like to sincerely thank the Gardens for this support, and look forward to continuing this close relationship into the future, with the recent re-signing of our MoU.



THE COMING YEAR

2022 will once again be a very busy year for the ANPC undertaking the following activities:

- Finalising the Healthy Seeds Project and seeking funds for Stage 2.
- Promoting the 3rd edition of the Germplasm Guidelines.
- Planning and undertaking the 13th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference in April.
- Planning and undertaking part 2 of the Fenner Conference with an expert writing workshop.
- Undertaking the post-bushfire project.
- Planning and undertaking plant translocation workshops.
- Seeking additional funding for further projects and workshops.

I have really enjoyed my second year as President. This year has seen a great deal of effort lead to the finalisation and release of the new Florabank and Germplasm guidelines and the Healthy Seeds draft Roadmap. These are achievements ANPC can be very proud of and they will play key roles in guiding ongoing plant conservation. It highlights the ongoing strength of the organisation and those working for ANPC. It continues to be a pleasure and a privilege to work with all of you and for an organisation that does so much for plant conservation in Australia. With our forthcoming conference next year, along with a broad range of projects underway, I know that ANPC can continue to play a leading role in plant conservation across Australia and the region more broadly.



Tony Auld. Photo by Michael Lawrence-Taylor

Dr Tony Auld
President
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.