**Plant Cuttings – May 2022**

# Bruce Pascoe's farm – ABC RN, 7 May 2022

Jonathan makes the trip to Mallacoota in far-eastern Victoria, land of the Gunai Kurnai people, to visit writer, historian, and Dark Emu author Bruce Pascoe. During a wander around the farm, they discuss native crops and grasses, food sustainability and farming and ducks. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/blueprintforliving/bruce-pascoe-farm-mallacoota/13870156>

# Plants grow in lunar soil for the first time, as NASA plans for life on the Moon – ABC, 13 May 2022

Scientists have used lunar soil collected during Apollo missions to grow plants for the first time. The results have been deemed promising enough that NASA is envisioning hothouses on the Moon for the next generation of lunar explorers. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-13/plants-grow-lunar-soil-moon-discovery/101064028>

# Rare native plants ravaged by bushfires in Mallacoota make comeback in nursery sanctuary – ABC, 15 May 2022

Two-and-a-half years after the catastrophic Black Summer bushfires devastated the Victorian town of Mallacoota, rainforest and coastal areas have slowly been coming back to life, with the help of a unique community nursery. Set up to grow seedlings for replanting around the township and wilderness areas, the Friends of Mallacoota Nursery was established to regenerate native species obliterated by fire. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-15/bushfire-razed-plants-regenerated-by-nursery-donated-seeds/101054592>

**The environment and the election – ABC Late Night Live, 16 May 2022**

# Australia is facing an extinction crisis, yet the environment has been almost completely absent from debates during the election campaign. What pledges and policies have the major parties announced when it comes to biodiversity and conservation, and what do those working in the field want the next federal government to prioritise? <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/the-environment-and-the-election/13883890>

# Volunteers plant 60 trees at Oldina farm in bid to tackle food security fears – ABC, 17 May 2022

A group of passionate Tasmanians have a bold plan for their humble community garden plot and it all starts with 60 fruit trees. The Community Fruit Loops project is a multi-faceted joint venture being undertaken by the Country Women's Association, Live Well Tasmania and the Devonport Seed Library. The groups hope to address regional food security and, while they're at it, encourage social connections. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-17/northern-tasmanians-tackle-food-insecurity-with-community-farm/101069376>

# These are the first plants grown in moon dirt - Science News, 23 May 2022

That’s one small stem for a plant, one giant leap for plant science. In a tiny, lab-grown garden, the first seeds ever sown in lunar dirt have sprouted. This small crop, planted in samples returned by Apollo missions, offers hope that astronauts could someday grow their own food on the moon. <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/moon-dirt-plants-farming-regolith>

# Jojoba seed dreams spur Narrabri farmer to plant thousands of trees – ABC, 23 May 2022

The wax from the seeds of jojobas trees are used in a wide range of beauty products and as a substitute for oils.With 55 per cent of the seed being liquid wax, those in the industry say it is similar to the oil in your skin which makes jojoba a gentler and more environmentally-friendly alternative. Ms Felton-Taylor has just finished planting her first trees on her Narrabri farm. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-05-23/jojoba-farmer-plants-first-trees-narrabri/101069518>

**Events and Opportunities**

**Plant Treasures Webinar 3 – Recording available**

If you missed the 3rd Plant Treasures webinar this month you can watch the recording now at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx1o_qMSXyo>

**Botanic Gardens Day - 29 May 2022**

To celebrate Botanic Gardens Day there are events being held at gardens across the country on Sunday 29 May. To find out what events are on near you check your local gardens’ website.

**VIDEO: ANPC and BGANZ quick history**

During the third webinar in our Plant Treasures series John Arnott (Curator of horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and BGANZ Council Representative for Victoria) gave a brief overview of the history of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc. (ANPC) and Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc. (BGANZ). Have a listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZU9kjJYF18>

**Last Plant Treasures webinar**

The fourth and final instalment in our Plant treasures Webinar series is coming up. From 1-2pm AEST on Thursday 9 June, join us online for a introduction to seed testing, germination and dormancy. Guest speakers for this webinar include Dr Lucy Commander, who managed the recent revision of the Florabank Guidelines, Dr Megan Hirst a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Royal Botanic Gardens and Deaking University and Dr Lydia Guja from the National Seed Bank who will give a talk on behalf of Dr Gemma Hoyle. Put the date in your diary and this Teams link to join the webinar: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\_NjFmNWE1YTktMDNhYi00MWVkLTk0MDItMjgwNjVhNjMyZmNl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ab5e9aab-7c13-45bf-94a3-ede8753f7c11%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227b9d4bc2-2452-4d31-b39f-a433aae09909%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_NjFmNWE1YTktMDNhYi00MWVkLTk0MDItMjgwNjVhNjMyZmNl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ab5e9aab-7c13-45bf-94a3-ede8753f7c11%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227b9d4bc2-2452-4d31-b39f-a433aae09909%22%7d)

**Flora Connections**

Australia has a wealth of unique plant species, with many plants found nowhere else in the world. To protect these plants we need to know what is happening on the ground, and how plants across Australia are faring against threats such as habitat loss, disease, fires and floods. Citizen scientists, bushwalkers and botany groups have on-ground knowledge of what’s happening to plants in their area. A new citizen science project, Flora Connections wants to connect this community plant knowledge to conservation decision making. Flora Connections provides guides and a data sheet to collect information on plant species- where the plant is growing, how many plants there are and what the threats to the plant might be. Data can then be uploaded via the website to the Atlas of Living Australia, where it will be used by the scientific committees and land managers trying to protect plants across Australia. Visit [floraconnections.com](http://floraconnections.com/) to learn more, and print out a data sheet and get involved!

**AABR YouTube channel**

If you’re looking for informative content on bush regeneration check out the AABR YouTube channel. You’ll also find recordings of their webinars here, including their recent webinar ‘Innovations in the Chemical Management of Vertebrate Pests’. <https://www.youtube.com/c/regenTV>

**New ESA Research Chapter**

The Ecological Society of Australia has launched the Australian Vegetation Classification Research Chapter. This chapter consists of botanists, vegetation scientists and ecologists from across government, the private sector and academia. They aim to progress vegetation classification in Australia through vegetation plot dataset analysis and building the profile of Australian vegetation types internationally. <https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/category/research-chapters/australian-vegetation-classification/>

**Landcare checks in**

On Tuesday 31 May join the WA Landcare Network on Zoom to discuss ‘Seed and seedling supply for biodiverse revegetation’. Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/seed-and-seedling-supply-for-biodiverse-revegetation>

**PhD opportunities**

Interested in working on the Cumberland Plain?? The Western Sydney University is offering scholarships to 4 PhD candidates to contribute to a collaborative research program that will support the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan. Applications close 30 June 2022, for more information head to their website: [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/grs/scholarships/current\_scholarships/current\_scholarships/enhancing\_cultural,\_conservation\_and\_restoration\_outcomes\_in\_the\_cumberland\_plain\_of\_western\_sydney?fbclid=IwAR2YDiI1NfbpGBINUINxpNvu4DN0Isyxjs9ETBbKiqo2WZJv9ZPZfuuXoVw](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/grs/scholarships/current_scholarships/current_scholarships/enhancing_cultural%2C_conservation_and_restoration_outcomes_in_the_cumberland_plain_of_western_sydney?fbclid=IwAR2YDiI1NfbpGBINUINxpNvu4DN0Isyxjs9ETBbKiqo2WZJv9ZPZfuuXoVw)

**ESA Joint Conference**

The conference of the Ecological Society of Australia and the Society for Conservation Biology Oceania will be held in Wollongong, NSW from 28 November to 2 December 2022. ESA-SCBO 2022 will be an in-person conference but a limited number of online options will be offered, including live-streamed plenaries, some live-streamed symposia and some of the presentations being made available online after the conference.

<https://www.esascbo2022.org.au/>

**Project Return – Future Women**

Future Women are have launched the initiative Project Return. Project Return is an innovative, digital program that supports women returning to work and will give them confidence, knowledge and connections they need for a rewarding and secure career. This program received grant funding from the Australian Government's National Careers Institute. <https://futurewomen.com/project-return/>